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HUNDRED DAYS OF LOVE

ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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1983

Thomas A. Carruth

Revised and Enlarged Edition

THE AFFIRMATION OF LOVE.

I believe in God the Father all loving.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the expression of the Father's love,
And our utmost example of perfect love.**

I believe in the love of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and I believe in the love of man.

I believe every man is a man God loves and for whom Christ died.

I believe in the life of love, given to us by Jesus Christ who is our Saviour and Lord; and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit the life of love now becomes the life of God in the soul of man.

I believe in the life of love in every relationship of life initiated and strengthened through the daily practice of Christian prayer.

**I believe in and pray for the coming of the Beloved Community on earth as it is in Heaven;
and**

I believe that the everlasting life is the Eternal Life of Love.

**Therefore, I now will believe in love and practice love as long as I live on this earth;
And at the end of this life, I shall go to dwell in the House of Love forever.**

—Thomas A. Carruth

THE ANNIVERSARY EDITION HUNDRED DAYS OF LOVE

1983 by Thomas Albert Carruth

Seventeen years Director of Department of Prayer and Spiritual Life, Asbury Theological Seminary, with course on "Personal and Social Implications of Christian Love."

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to local churches and prayer groups.*

DEDICATION IN LOVE

God Is Love

1. To God, the Father, to Jesus Christ, our Saviour and the Holy Spirit who sheds abroad in our hearts the love of God.
2. To St. Paul, who gave us the concept of the "body of Christ" as a fellowship of love.
3. To St. John, who wrote, "He that knoweth not love, knoweth not God, for God is love."
4. To Rev. Charles Shaw and Trinity Methodist Church, Rome, Georgia, who, in 1963, helped to originate the project "100 Days of Love" with his people.
5. To the thousands of ministers, laymen, ladies and youth across America who have been a part of 100 Days of Love Movement.
6. To all the churches who have projected "40 Days of Love" and "50 Days of Love" programs.
7. To the hundreds of students in classes on love at Asbury Seminary, where the Body of Christ has "**come alive**" over and over as students have been filled with love by the Holy Spirit.
8. To Henry Cross, Pastor Jack Rosser, Mr. and Mrs. T.R. Reid at Wilson Chapel Church in Birmingham, Alabama, who gave us the dream and projected "1,000 Days of Love." Thousands are now involved.
9. To Jimmy Sowder, the greatest Love Witness, soul winner I have ever known.

Dedication for our
HUNDRED DAYS OF LOVE

From date: _____ through date: _____

By the help of God and others, I want to practice daily a life of Christian love for one hundred days.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

I am asking others to help me in prayer counsel and comradeship. Some, I list below:

THE PREFACE

"Sweetest Story Ever Told"

On a Sunday afternoon, September 23, 1963, I went out to a park in Rome, Georgia, to meditate and pray. There God gave the Dream, "100 Days of Love." Beginning that night at midnight there were exactly 100 days left in 1963.

We took this dream back to the revival where I was preaching at Trinity Methodist Church in Rome, Georgia. On the front of the pulpit were the words "God is Love."

We knew this movement originated with God. The pastor, Rev. Charles Shaw, was most co-operative and so were his people.

We developed a full page in the newspaper with Bible verse, prayer, and meditation. These pages were first printed in *The Atlanta Journal* and *The Constitution*.

Following the tragic death of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, the local churches put on "100 Days of Love" programs in their area. Daily papers carried a Bible verse and meditation on love.

Following the assassination of Martin Luther King in Memphis, four newspapers carried the full page witness "100 Days of Love."

In Washington, D.C., while the battle over segregation was raging, a full page of 100 Days of Love

was carried in the daily paper. Full pages were carried in Jackson, Mississippi, and other cities.

This most creative wave of love in daily life has been projected by hundreds of churches across America. For these churches, groups, families and individuals, we have provided "50 Days of Love," "Forty Days of Love," and "1,000 Days of Love."

The story is not finished. Each year we have received calls for thousands of programs on love. We have kept the prices low and the material is not copyrighted.

Love and prayer go together. PTL has projected this Love Movement to millions across America.

Pastors, churches or groups desiring "Love Material" write or phone: Thomas A. Carruth, 142 Lowry Lane, Wilmore, Kentucky 40390. Phone 606-858-3810.

We ship on consignment.

100 Days of Love is \$1.25.

50 Days of Love and **40 Days of Love** are \$1.00 each.

1,000 Days of Love is 25 cents a copy.

God is love! God is in this Movement!

Let's go with God!

Special: The greatest book on Love we have found is:

The Love Affair by Michael Harper

"The Ten Commandments of a Loving Church"

1. Thou shalt place the love of God above every other love, greater than the love of your denomination, your local church or any part of your church program.

2. Thou shalt know and love the Holy Spirit in personal and corporate experience and thus receive His power to experience and maintain Christian love in the life of the church.

3. Thou shalt recognize that all churches and all people have faults, therefore thou shalt accept people as they are and tenderly patiently help them to be what God wants them to be.

4. The church shall be kind and loving to the stranger within its gates who has come to worship there, regardless of his denomination, his nationality, his race or his creed.

5. Thou shalt be patient and merciful with the church member who had become disloyal and who has gone astray, ever remembering God's mercy and love toward all of us.

6. Thou shalt love the Bible, read it, keep it in a central place of worship and bring it to all services.

7. Thou shalt love to visit and go beyond the walls of the church, to witness, to lead men to Christ, and to ever bring new persons into the fellowship of Christ and His Church.

8. Thou shalt ever remember the poor, the sick, the unfortunate and in times of sorrow be ever near to those who need comfort and love.

9. Thou shalt give as much or more for the good of others as you spend on your own needs, and thus become a great missionary church.

10. Thou shalt ever keep before the people, the person, the work, the life, the death, the resurrection, and the promise of the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the end that all may know Him as Lord and Saviour and experience His loving presence as Lord in all the personal and corporate life of the church.

"Such a church will be a fellowship of redeeming love."

T.A.C.

MATERIALS FOR PARTICIPATION

It is suggested that local pastors and leaders develop their own materials, such as:

- (1) The selection of a hundred verses on love from the Bible to be used in daily life of love.
- (2) A careful study of Christian hymns with copies of verses related to love.
- (3) The development of prayers, carefully worded in Christian love.
- (4) The development of the Witness of Love Affirmation. This can be printed on a card.
- (5) The development of a guide for a "Prayer Vigil" with emphasis on love.
- (6) The development of many approaches in the total life of the Church that will help to project Christian love.
- (7) Good times to begin this 100 days of love are New Year's Eve, the beginning of Lent, the last hundred days of the year—or other periods leading up to special programs or missions.
- (8) The people participating will need continuous encouragement and help. They will need to bear witness to this Way of Love in their total life.

LOVING YOUR ENEMIES

The 1st Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 13:35. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another.

The Prayer—Dear Lord, Help me to know that the best way to destroy my enemy is to love him into being my friend.

The Affirmation—I refuse to be an enemy to any enemy.

The Scripture Lesson—Matthew 5:39-44

The Meditation

My Work and My Love

When I love my work

And I work my Love

I do not know where one begins

And another ends.

Because:

I am always surrounded by friends.

Therefore:

I have learned

That the only way life will work

Is for me to work the life of love.

I am on my way

To a greater life

Because I have a greater love.

And:

The rest of my life

Will be the best of my life

Because:

The test of my life

Is Christian love.

THINK THE THOUGHTS OF LOVE

The 2nd Day of Love

Memory Verse—Matthew 5:46. If you love them which love you, what reward have you?

The Prayer—Teach me, O Lord, to keep on loving when there is no response to my love.

The Affirmation—Today I will love someone who does not love me.

The Scripture Lesson—Philippians 4:6-9

The Meditation

The meaning of the Master,
For the minds of men
Is a message of mercy:
Turning an enemy into a friend.

Therefore:

If I am to grow in love, I must know how to think love.

To know how to love is to:

think lovely thoughts about unlovely people;
to think lovely thoughts with lovely people;
and to help all people think loving thoughts
about all other people.

Come to think of it, I find:

—It is easy to love some of the people, some of the time!

—It is easy to love all the people some of the time!

But—it is awfully hard to love all of the people
all of the time!

LEARNING THE LESSONS OF LOVE

The 3rd Day of Love

Memory Verse—Matthew 5:44. Love your enemies.

The Prayer—Our Father, help us to know that Jesus sees us as we are and He loves us.

The Affirmation—Today I will love people as they are.

The Scripture Lesson—Matthew 5:3-9

The Meditation

Love is a language to be learned. When you know how to say it, and you know how to pray it, Then you will see! That love is the lamp you light for the lessons you learn! When you know how to live!

Therefore:

Christ is crowned in the creation of your courtesy;

There is a touch of tenderness in your tones as you talk;

Your trials and your tragedies you turn into trails of triumph, and every new day

You can find a new way! To learn the lessons and the language of love.

GIVE THE GIFTS OF LOVE

The 4th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Matthew 19:19. Thou shalt love thy neighbor.

The Prayer—Loving Father, help me to be the kind of neighbor that will be easy to love.

The Affirmation—Today I will try to make it easier for others to love me.

The Scripture Lesson—Galatians 5:22-25

The Meditation

To learn how to give is to learn how to live. And we find: The gift of our love in the lift of a life—and so, when we leave the lowlands of the lowly and we are lifted to the highways of the holy, it is always because, someone so freely gave that which another might save—love.

Further:

Since all my yesterdays are gone, and I know not whether

Tomorrow will ever dawn,

Today as I love, I will give—

Because:

This may be the best day to give love

That I shall ever live!

PRACTICE THE PRAISE OF LOVE

The 5th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 4:20. If a man says, I love God and hateth his brother . . .

The Prayer—Lord Jesus, help me to be so possessed by the love of the Father, until it will be natural to love my brother.

The Affirmation—Today I want to know how to love all my brothers.

The Scripture Lesson—Psalm 138:1-2, Psalm 139:14, Psalm 139:23-24

The Meditation

Praise the Lord for His Love.

Praise the love in others.

If,

we would practice more

the praise of love,

And pursue less the love of praise,

Then:

God would be more pleased,

and the world would not be so diseased

With a sin called hate.

Because:

What this world needs

Is not more "greeds"

for the greedy—

But more deeds

for the needy.

When you take off your pride

And sit down beside

A poor sinner that died,

Think on your ways;

You might have lengthened his days

If you had given him more praise.

PRAYER AND LOVE

The 6th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 21:17. Simon, lovest thou me?

The Prayer—Lord, help us to prove our love by our life more than by our lips.

The Affirmation—Today I will live love.

The Scripture Lesson—Philemon 1:3-6

The Meditation

**Sentences of love are the sermons of our soul!
We sing love in the sentences of a song.**

We pray love in the prose of a prayer.

We send love everywhere.

Therefore:

The story of our life is said

In the sentences we say!

To find life at its best,

We must meet the test

To find many new ways

For many new days

Of simply saying, "I love you."

Let's learn to say it!

In the sacrament of silence,

By what we are!

In the sacredness of service,

By what we do!

In the tenderness of our tones

When we say,

"I love you."

LIFT LOADS THROUGH LOVE

The 7th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 15:12. That you love one another as I have loved you.

The Prayer—We are so thankful, Lord Jesus, for Your constant love all the time.

The Affirmation—Today I will try to love others as Jesus loves me.

The Scripture Lesson—Matthew 11:28-30

The Meditation

Have you found people with loads too heavy to lift? Then, get under the load with them.

Love will lift a load when everything else has failed.

Because: "God is Love"

When disease has done its worst, we may see life at its best!

Because: God can save, and He can heal!

When life is too heavy and we cannot bear the load —

We take our burdens to the Lord, because God cares.

Therefore, remember:

Nothing is going to happen to you that is too big for you and God to handle in love.

No temptation is going to overtake you, but what is common to man—and God will, in love, provide escape.

New life and new love come together in the comradeship of a common task, when together we love, and together we live, and together we lift the burdens on the backs of our brothers.

LEAVE LOVE WHEREVER YOU GO

The 8th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Matthew 22:37. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God.

The Prayer—Thank You, dear Father, for helping us to love You as we should.

The Affirmation—Today I will prove my love for God by what I do for others.

Scripture Lesson—Matthew 28:18-20

The Meditation

LEAVE LOVE WHEREVER YOU GO.

This Jesus did so beautifully.

When He fed the hungry;

He healed the sick.

He encouraged the lonely.

He forgave sin.

He visited a home.

Question: Are people better after you leave them?

Yes, if you left more love than you found when you came.

Leave love!

You do not lose love

When you leave love!

Therefore:

Let us leave love

Wherever we go!

So—

That others may know

That "God is Love".

Love makes the difference.

—In a life that is defeated;

—In a sorrow repeated;

—In a heart that is cheated.

TAKE ALONG SOME EXTRA LOVE TODAY

The 9th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 10:17. Therefore doth my Father love me.

The Prayer—Lord, we cannot live without Thy love.

The Affirmation—Today I am receiving God's love all day.

The Scripture Lesson—Lamentations: 3:21-26

The Meditation

Take along some extra love today.

You may need it.

Remember, how they criticized Jesus.

See Him standing before Pilate.

**Listen to the whip coming down on His back—
And yet!**

He always had more than enough love!

**The overflowing heart
is the ever-loving heart.**

Because:

**The heart that overflows
always knows**

**That the fountains of love
forever flow**

In the foothills of faith and freedom.

Take love with you!

As one who is prepared;

as one who cared;

Take love with you

as one who dared.

Take love with you

To believe:

In the fellowship of love

Are the finest flowers of freedom—and—

The last best hope of the human race

Is the love light that shined in His face!

GO WHERE LOVE IS

The 10th Day of Love

Memory Verse—I John 4:8. He that loveth not; knoweth not God, for God is love.

The Prayer—O God, help me to know that whatever happens to me, my family and my world, that God is love.

The Affirmation—Today I will repeat and believe the words, "God is love."

The Scripture Lesson—I John 2:9-12

The Meditation

Go where love is . . . because:
. . . Others have love to give you!

Remember:

It is just as loving to let others love you, as it is lovely of you to love others.

Jesus found love.

Somewhere there is waiting for me
A love light I long to see.

Where shall I find it?

This treasure so rare?

In the heart of a child

So meek and so mild.

In the laughter of a lad

When his heart is glad.

In the measure of a man

Who for the right, loves to stand;

In the mood of a matchless mother

Who gives her life for another.

Maybe it will come!

In some glad morning,

Without a moment's warning,

In the sacred sweetness of silence;

In majestic music that moves me;

In the mood of a moment that is mine.

GOD'S LOVE LIGHT

The 11th Day of Love

Memory Verse—I John 4:11. If God so loved us,
we ought also to love one another.

The Prayer—Lord, help me to be right in love
toward everyone.

The Affirmation—As I face people today, I will
remember how God loves me.

The Scripture Lesson—I John 4:11-15

The Meditation

Through love light we gain the truest insight into
every situation.

The Lord gives us a love light and He tells us to
let it shine.

LET IT SHINE

When the tension is the toughest,
So that you may see
How to be tender and true.

LET IT SHINE

When darkness has covered the sky,
Maybe the sun will shine again
Through the life of a friend.

In God's light house
The love light is always shining;
And to us, He gives the keeping of
The love lights among the lives
Where we live!

SENDING LOVE

The 12th Day of Love

Memory Verse—I John 4:19. We love Him because He first loved us.

The Prayer—Lord, help me to first love others.

The Affirmation—Today I will be first in *love*.

The Scripture Lesson— I John 4:16-19

The Meditation

When God was ready to tell us how much He loved us, it took more than a heaven filled with stars, more than a garden filled with flowers, more than a world filled with beauty. It took flesh, a mind, a voice, a spirit, a living Person— It took Jesus, the Saviour, to reveal how much God cared.

God is trying to tell others how much He cares, and He needs your help.

You can love a flower, but the flower cannot love you. You can love an infinite number of beautiful things, but things can never love you.

You are God's love letter to others.

What are they reading?

GOD'S LOVE GIFT

The 13th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.

The Prayer—O God, help us to appreciate Thy gift by accepting Jesus, our Saviour, and sharing Him with all people.

The Affirmation—Today I will give myself in love for God and others.

The Scripture Lesson—John 10:14-18

The Meditation

If love made the greatest difference in Heaven, then certainly love makes the greatest difference on earth!

Christian love is the difference between living for love and love for living.

Because:

People who live for love, lose their love and their life.

But:

People who love for life, learn to live and learn to love!

Remember:

It is just as easy to be selfish about your love, as it is to be loving about your selfishness.

GIVE YOURSELF IN LOVE

The 14th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Gal. 2:22. The Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The Prayer—O Lord, I am so thankful that Jesus included others and even me.

The Affirmation—Today I will tell others of God's love gift for them.

The Scripture Lesson—Gal. 2:17-21

The Meditation

When I give "what I am", it is more important than giving "what I have." The hardest gift is the gift of self. To give yourself in love sincerely is like going to a place of no return. To give yourself in Christ-like love, is to follow Christ in the supreme sacrifice. Let us remember.

All of us give our time, our talents, and ourselves for something . . .

But:

The greatest investment of self, is to give ourselves to God!

This is love supreme!

Then

Give yourself to others!

This is service sublime.

ENEMIES BECOME FRIENDS

The 15th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Luke 6:27. Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.

The Prayer—Our Father, help us to practice loving and living together.

The Affirmation—Today I want to do something good for an enemy.

The Scripture Lesson—Luke 6:26-31

The Meditation

Try to understand the enemies of others, before you try to destroy your own enemies.

And remember :

An enemy today, may be the friend you need tomorrow!

An enemy tomorrow, may be the one you think is your friend today!

Be ready for surprises!

Sometimes the strongest hostility springs from the warmest friendships.

But remember :

It is always right to love your enemies, though you may have to leave some of them alone!

HIGHER LOVE

The 16th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Luke 11:43. Ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues.

The Prayer—O Father, save us from the love of place and prestige.

The Affirmation—Today I would love to live the lowly life of a servant.

The Scripture Lesson—Luke 11:37-41

The Meditation

Higher love is not always in higher places!
Sometimes the highest love is found in the lowest places.

To be “looked up to” is not necessarily to be loved.
And:

Condescending love is not Christian or creative!
Remember:

That he who wears a crown of love, never has to announce it; love life bears a radiance that is forever real!

And:

The most subtle form of treason is to love the right thing for the wrong reason!

LOVING DARKNESS

The 17th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 3:19. Men loved darkness rather than light.

The Prayer—Almighty God, help us to know that love and law must go together, always.

The Affirmation—Today I will love God with all my heart and do as I please.

The Scripture Lesson—John 3:17-21

The Meditation

Sometimes an evil thing can be very beautiful and lovely in its appearance. A snake in its natural habitat may seem quiet and beautiful and innocent. But it is hardly recommended for a baby as a plaything! Most of our choices in life are not black or white, but gray.

But the wise person sees the shadows and knows where the dark love is.

In the shadow of every great love there is always a perversion!

“Dark love” and “right love” are not always extremes; sometimes they may be very close to each other.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.” In his light, we see love as it really is.

DIFFERENT LOVE

The 18th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 11:5. Jesus loved Martha and her sister.

The Prayer—We are so thankful, Lord Jesus, that You loved people who are different.

The Affirmation—I am different and others love me.

The Scripture Lesson—John 11:6-10

The Meditation

Love makes a difference.

Sometimes the difference in a person makes the difference in our love.

This is not always right.

God loves us all as if we were the same!

God sees the difference in all of us—

So some of us receive His love differently.

The English word, “love” is inadequate. We use it for the love of a book, a home, a church, a friend, a parent, a sweetheart.

Remember:

You are only as mature in love as you understand and practice intelligently the different Christian loves!

Love has many children.

Do you know their names?

UNENDING LOVE

The 19th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 13:1. Having loved His own
—He loved them to the end.

The Prayer—We thank Thee, our Father, that love
never ends.

The Affirmation—Today I live in eternal love.

The Scripture Lesson—John 13:5-10

The Meditation

“True love never dies”—This is more than a sentimental affirmation!

Some love seems to die, because it has never really lived!

Most Christians are not trained in the art of loving those who have done wrong and are rejected by society. If you did something terribly wrong today, how many of your friends would stand by you?

Christian love means Christian rescue when the task is hard.

The true shepherd goes out after the sheep!

Let us go with Christ as He goes out for others—
today.

OBEDIENT LOVE

The 20th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 14:15. If ye love me, keep my commandments.

The Prayer—Help us, O God, to show our love by our obedience.

The Affirmation—Today I will obey!

The Scripture Lesson—John 14:21-25, 27

The Meditation

To love Christ means to love the law which He obeyed. He said, "I come not to destroy the law, but to fulfill the law."

Remember:

You cannot have the holy help you need in pursuit of a purpose, if you practice the petty perversions of disobedience.

—To love right means to do right!

—To do right means to love right!

And:

The rigid rules of discipline must never destroy the delicate desires of divine devotion! The divine purpose of discipline is not to make more discipline but to develop more devotion in love.

We break God's heart when we disobey, but we do not break the law—the law breaks us.

LOVING PERSONS

The 21st Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 14:23. If a man love me, he will keep my words.

The Prayer—Lord, help us to hear Your words of love and never forget.

The Affirmation—Today I will remember words of love.

The Scripture Lesson—John 14:24-28, 37, 38

The Meditation

There are people who love purposes more than they do persons.

And this gets them into trouble.

Think on these:

Did you ever see a person who loved the church more than the people in the church?

Did you ever hear of a person who loved democracy more than he did a neighbor of another color?

Have you ever tried to justify the means because of the end in view—although you crushed people in your program?

Remember: It takes a lot of love, to love a lot of people,

—If you really mean it individually.

—In fact, it takes the grace of God!

REJOICE IN LOVE

The 22nd Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 14:28. If you loved me, you would rejoice!

The Prayer—Lord, we are thankful that Jesus fixes us so we can laugh and rejoice.

The Affirmation—Today I rejoice in Christ and His love.

The Scripture Lesson—John 14:27-31

The Meditation

There has probably never been a day in the history of the world when so many people love so many things and actually rejoice in this love!

Did you ever see anyone desecrate the Sabbath day and rejoice in this love?

Have you ever talked to an immoral man who rejoices in the love of that which destroys him and another?

If our reaction is to rejoice in that which is right, it must be that our heart is right!

If we rejoice in the fall of another, we too have fallen—and the love light burns low in our hearts.

BROTHERLY LOVE

The 23rd Day of Love

Memory Verse—Heb. 13:1. Let brotherly love continue.

The Prayer—Our Father, help us to experience love as a continuing movement.

The Affirmation—Today I will be a channel of continuous love.

The Scripture Lesson—Hebrews 13:1-3, 8, 15, 16, 20, 21

The Meditation

It does make a difference when it is your brother! The Christian religion is a family religion. God is our Father, Christ our reconciler to the Father and to each other. Men are our brothers.

There are some who want to be born into God's family, but do not want to be brothers with some of the brothers. There are "baby brothers", "big brothers", "bad brothers", "little brothers," "lost brothers", "redeemed brothers"—

Which one are you?

You see, there are many kinds of brotherly love.

Evil brothers often love and support each other. Christian brotherly love is best, because it meets the test of life.

DWELL IN LOVE

The 24th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 4:12. If we love one another,
God dwelleth in us.

The Prayer—Our Father, we pray that our personalities will be fit places for Thee to dwell in love.

The Affirmation—I will remember today that God lives in me.

The Scripture Lesson—I John 4:12-17

The Meditation

Wherever love lives, love lives in a place.

Is it not great that love can dwell in so many places that are so different?

For Jesus, love lived on a cruel cross.

Through Paul and Silas we find love in a jail at midnight.

Sometimes a modest home has more love than a castle clothed in wealth.

The sweetest place for love to dwell is in a human heart.

When we have love in our hearts, it changes the place where our bodies dwell.

We can never lose those we love if they dwell in His love and His love dwells in us.

Make room inside for love, and everything outside will be changed!

LOVE AND A LIVING SACRIFICE

The 25th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Romans 12:9. Let love be without dissimulation.

The Prayer—Our Father, help us to have complete sacrificial love toward Thee and all people.

The Affirmation—Today I will sacrifice in life and in love.

The Scripture Lesson—Romans 12:1-8

The Meditation

Love never travels alone. Love goes with imperfect people. Love rides the wings of selfishness. Love motivates the meek and the mighty. Love can be majestic or it can be meaningless.

Remember: When love dresses up in someone else's clothes, culture, etc., you may not recognize it at first! Look closely, it may be someone for whom Christ died! Love goes through tunnels of dark loneliness, climbs the hills of our highest hopes.

IF YOU ARE GOING WITH LOVE, YOU ARE GOING TO HEAVEN—AND HEAVEN IS GOING WITH YOU!

CORPORATE LOVE

The 26th Day of Love

Memory Verse—I Peter 2:17. Love the brotherhood.

The Prayer—Help me, O God, to make my love as brotherly as the love of Jesus.

The Affirmation—Today I will follow Jesus in love.

The Scripture Lesson—I Peter 2:17-24

The Meditation

The greatest need in our world is the need of the witness of corporate love.

“Together we live, together we love.”

It is not enough to say, “I love you”—the world is waiting for America to become a brotherhood and say, “We love you.”

Remember: The more we love Christ, the more we love those who belong to Christ. It is hard to love a race or a nation that has sinned against you—but it has been done!

The Holy Spirit came upon a brotherhood of love! We multiply our lives and our loves when we love in the brotherhood and through the brotherhood.

WORLDLY LOVE

The 27th Day of Love

Memory Verse—I John 2:15. Love not the world.

The Prayer—Help me, O God, to make my love as broad as the brotherhood of man.

The Affirmation—Today I will love everybody.

The Scripture Lesson—I John 2:15-19

The Meditation

The love of the world and the love of God is basically the battle between the love of the temporal and the love of the timeless.

Shortsighted people are long on worldly love.

Farsighted people are short on the love of material and long on the love of the eternal.

Jesus had the most perfect balance in his love of good things in the world and the love of God.

He said, "I am come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly." He also said,

"In my Father's house are many mansions."

There need be no conflict in these two loves when we follow Christ.

LOVING THE APPEARANCE OF JESUS

The 28th Day of Love

Memory Verse—II Tim. 4:8. Unto all them that love His appearing.

The Prayer—Help me to love the appearance of Jesus in the life of others.

The Affirmation—Today I will look for Jesus in others.

The Scripture Lesson—II Timothy 4:3-8

The Meditation

When you are loving, you are looking for the Lord
You may see Him in a hungry beggar; you may
be near Him in a suffering child! You may feel
His presence as you pray with a prisoner.

Jesus appears:

—In our minds as we think of Him.

—In our hearts as we love Him.

—In our worship as we adore Him.

—In our ears as we hear Him.

—In our fellowship when we love Him.

Do you love His appearing? Your Christian answer is a joyous, "Yes!"

Because when Jesus is near, the whole world is different! We live! We love! We laugh! We linger in His lovely presence, and lo—He is with us always!

RIGHTEOUS LOVE

The 29th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Hebrews 1:9. Thou hast loved righteousness.

The Prayer—Grant, O God, that my 'want to' and 'ought to' will be the same.

The Affirmation—I want to do right today.

The Scripture Lesson—Hebrews 1:8-13

The Meditation

If there can be a right way to love, there can always be a wrong way to love. Unrighteous love may be simply mixed emotions when our witness and our love should be clear. The reward of righteous love is righteousness!

The wages of sinful love is "sin" and more sin. The more you love anything, the more you become like it!

A little love

When a lot is needed,

Is like a piece of ground

That is poorly seeded.

Because love grows in a garden

From the seed we plant there,

When love grows thin,

When evil creeps in,

The life we started in morning light

May be dissolved away in darkest night

LOVE'S GREAT QUESTION

The 30th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 21:17. Simon, lovest thou me?

The Prayer—Lord Jesus, may we hear Thee call our name today.

The Affirmation—Today I will be listening to Jesus.

The Scripture Lesson—John 21:15-20

The Meditation

It is not difficult to find many people who love Jesus. But how rare to find someone who loves Him supremely!

Simon loved Jesus. He was sincere, but he did not understand the weakness of his own love!

The true test of our love is not what we say with our lips, but rather, when we are torn, tempted and tried, and still we stand close to His side. . . . When have you proved to Jesus and to yourself, that you loved Him supremely?

—When you were sick and helpless?

—When you were whole and hopeful?

—When you were sacrificing and serving?

—When you were worshiping and waiting?

Someday He may say to you, "Lovest thou me?"

Perhaps today—Are you listening?

ON BEING LOVABLE AT HOME

The 31st Day of Love

Memory Verse—Eph. 5:25. Love your wives, even as Christ loved.

The Prayer—Help every husband to be loving toward his wife today.

The Affirmation—Today, as a husband, I will show Christ-like love toward my wife.

The Scripture Lesson—Ephesians 5:28-33

The Meditation

One of the strangest mysteries of Christian life is in our carelessness with those we love most. Sometimes we practice our worst manners on people we love best.

Home is the place where those who know us best can love us most, because they know what we are and what we can become.

Dr. Roy Burkhart said there is a famine of tenderness. Truly great husbands are those who know how to be intelligently tender with their family. Tenderness is not a measure of weakness but a manner of strength and greatness. To be lovable all the time at home is a blessing beyond description for our families.

LOVING AND HATING

The 32nd Day of Love

Memory Verse—Amos 5:15. Hate the evil and love the good.

The Prayer—O Lord, teach me what to love and what to hate.

The Affirmation—Today I will love the good.

The Scripture Lesson—Zechariah 8:20-23

The Meditation

Loving and hating are not always extremes—sometimes they are very close together, in the same person!

We have witnessed hatred in a family. A wife and husband that were once devoted to each other may become the bitterest enemies.

Children may resent their parents.

What is the problem of love and hate?

Resentment about little things is an early “seed” that grows toward hatred. Unwillingness to forgive means that you have asked resentment to become a permanent guest in your heart.

The cure for hate is positive love, created, sustained and expressed.

When our heart is filled with love, there is no room for hate.

LOVING STRANGERS

The 33rd Day of Love

Memory Verse—Jeremiah 2:25. I have loved strangers.

The Prayer—O Lord, help me to love every stranger I meet today.

The Affirmation—Today every stranger will be a 'friend' in love.

The Scripture Lesson—Matthew 25:34-41

The Meditation

If you have ever been alone and a long way from home and you have met a stranger who was very loving and kind, then you know the value of the virtue of "loving strangers."

Every friend you have was once a stranger to you. Every stranger you meet is probably somebody's friend. To turn a stranger into a friend is one of the finest, most intelligent arts of Christian living.

Have you heard it said of another—"He never meets a stranger"?

Maybe this is life at its best. To make it easy for a stranger to be at home with you is one of life's greatest gifts.

Jesus is never a stranger to anyone who wants Him as a friend.

For Jesus' sake, you can be a friend to every stranger you meet.

LOVING OBEDIENCE

The 34th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Psalms 119:127. I love Thy commandments.

The Prayer—O Lord, forgive me for not always loving Thy commandments.

The Affirmation—Today I will love to obey God.

The Scripture Lesson—John 14:21-27

The Meditation

Have you ever thought of the reasons why people obey commands?

- (1) There are people who obey because they are afraid. Sometimes children are afraid of their parents.
- (2) There are people who obey because they are paid to obey. A hired person may do what he is told to do.
- (3) There are people who obey because they hope for some extra reward.
- (4) There are people who obey because they are in the habit of doing what they are told.
- (5) There are people who obey because they love the one who gives the commands and they believe in his wisdom!

Christian obedience is to love God and love His commandments, and this is life at its best—to love His authority and to have the authority of love.

SHARING LOVE

The 35th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Romans 5:5. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts.

The Prayer—Fill my heart, O God, with thy Love.

The Affirmation—Today I share His love through my love.

The Scripture Lesson—Romans 5:5-10.

The Meditation

Love has a way of multiplying!

You must loose love and let it go!

Love that is sent out with the hope of some reward in return, may turn into a dead orbit of selfishness.

It is said that all the words we have ever spoken out loud are still in motion. We cannot recall them!

Christian love released in the power of the Holy Spirit goes on and on!

You are the love object today of many generations and of many people who send out love.

There are people who love everybody and there are people who do not love anybody . . . which way do you choose?

To hold love is to lose love!

To release love is to possess and multiply your love.

When we give love we receive love, and our life and our love is multiplied.

LOVING TRUTH

The 36th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Ephesians 4:15. Speaking the truth in love.

The Prayer—Lord, help me to find the kind ways of telling the truth in love.

The Affirmation—Today I'll be kind and careful in what I say.

The Scripture Lesson—Ephesians 4:26-32

The Meditation

Let us think of two types of persons. Here is a person who tells you the truth and you resent it. Here is another person who tells you the truth and you appreciate it. What is the difference?

Could it be that one person has learned how to speak the truth in love, and the other hasn't? Here are some ways to speak truth in love.

1. Sometimes by being silent when you see another is wrong and waiting for the right mood and the right moment to share your truth with them.
2. Begin your statement with your own confession and a sincere willingness to be told the truth by the other person.
3. Never correct another person when you are mad at him, in the home, office, school, or anywhere else.
4. Watch the tones of your voice and let them convey love.
5. Convince others of your love and they may ask you for the truth.

Jesus Christ is God's truth spoken in love to everybody!

JUSTICE AND MERCY

The 37th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Micah 6:8. To do justly, to love mercy.

The Prayer—Our Father, help us to be merciful to others as thou hast been merciful to us.

The Affirmation—Today I will show mercy to everybody.

The Scripture Lesson—Micah 6:6-9

The Meditation

Love is the crown of jewels on the Head of Divinity where dwells the mind of God in mercy toward mankind.

Love is the cushion on the sharp edge of justice that reflects the elements of mercy.

Justice is the verdict of law.

Justice is the verdict of love.

Mercy in the sentence of God is greater than the laws He made.

The humility of justice is love that brings and bestows mercy.

Love without justice may become license for evil.

Justice without mercy becomes cruelty without hope of redemption.

The grace of God is the divine combination of justice and mercy that makes possible the transformation of human character and the operation of a Christian society in love.

THE LOVE THAT HOLDS US

The 38th Day of Love

Memory Verse—II Cor. 5:14. For the love of Christ constraineth us.

The Prayer—Thank you, Lord Jesus, for controlling us with Love.

The Affirmation—The love of Christ is my master today.

The Scripture Lesson—II Corinthians 5:17-21

The Meditation

It is not difficult to experience love in a moment or a mood of inspiration, but it is difficult to let love dominate our total lives.

Love can hold a home together when reason and law have failed.

Love can inspire people to work on when the way is uncertain.

Love can keep us on the highways of hope, when we are traveling in the dark.

Love can inspire a man to start over when he has failed many times.

Christian love can take us by the hand and lead us out of the jungle of emotional confusion.

Love can make us hold our temper when others are exploding around us.

Love can keep us from writing back, speaking back or fighting back when others treat us wrong.

Love holds us, love helps us, and love hides us in the heart of God.

“Jesus lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.”

FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE

The 39th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Phil. 1:9. Yet for love's sake.

The Prayer—Thank you, Heavenly Father, for loving us.

The Affirmation—For His love's sake, I will love.

The Scripture Lesson—Philemon 1:3-6

The Meditation

Do you remember the story of the little boy who carried another boy on his shoulder and a stranger asked, "Isn't he too heavy?"

"No," replied the little boy, "He is my brother."

Love sent Kagawa to live in a little room six feet square in the slums of Kobe.

Love sent Schweitzer to the jungles of Africa to give his life for others.

Love kept Grenfell in the cold north land of Labrador bringing healing to the helpless.

Love sent Helen Keller out across the world ministering to the blind and those who could not speak.

Love is the greatest power for motivating men to do good and to be good.

For love's sake, one person will live for another, die for another, suffer with another.

For love's sake, Jesus came and He still comes to bring blessing and forgiveness to the homeless, the helpless, and the hopeless.

"For love's sake" is the grace that turns an ordinary gift into a sacrament of friendship.

DIRECTED LOVE

The 40th Day of Love

Memory Verse—II Thess. 3:5. Direct your hearts into the love of God.

The Prayer—Lord God, set my compass of love toward heaven.

The Affirmation—Today my love is toward God.

The Scripture Lesson—II Thessalonians 2:13-17

The Meditation

Intelligent Christian love is always directed love. Careless love can lead to perversion, neglect of duty and confusion.

Directed love toward God has these elements:

1. The passion of a purpose.
2. The devotion of a discipline.
3. Growth toward a goal.
4. A sense of direction in a world of confusion.
5. A faith in the ultimate triumph of goodness.

I direct my love toward God when I worship sincerely.

I direct my love toward God when I share with others for Jesus' sake.

I direct my love toward God when I pray with adoration and thanksgiving.

I direct my love toward God when I wait on Him with faith.

I direct my love toward God when I surrender to Him—every day.

LOVING OUR IN-LAWS

The 41st Day of Love

Memory Verse—Deut. 30:16. I command thee this day to love the Lord, thy God.

The Prayer—Our Father, teach us that Christian love is the finest foundation of friendship.

The Affirmation—Today I will be a friend in Christ's spirit.

The Scripture Lesson—Ruth 1:16-19

The Meditation

The lesson of the book of Ruth might be: how to turn a mother-in-law into a "mother-in-love." A loving mother-in-law has the grace to know how:

1. To release her child when he is gone to be a companion to another.
2. To let her children and grandchildren have the privilege of making their own mistakes.
3. To make her heart a cemetery for burying unkind gossip.
4. To practice healing love when bitter differences arise.
5. To share love in every direction and relationship.

LOVELESSNESS

The 42nd Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 5:42. That ye have not the love of God in you.

The Prayer—Help us, our Father, not only to talk about love but to have love in our deepest nature.

The Affirmation—Today I will become love.

The Scripture Lesson—John 8:3-9

The Meditation

I once heard a great preacher speak on the greatest sin in the world—lovelessness.

If the presence of love is the greatest thing in the world, then the absence of love is the greatest tragedy in the world.

We can help to kill people by not loving them.

Hell is a place for people who do not care!

Heaven would be hell to some people because they would be surrounded by people who love.

Not to love is not to live!

The people who hurt Christ and the church most are not the people who hate, but the people who ignore.

Sometimes we get so busy doing good until we forget that the most important business of life is to love.

EXPRESSING LOVE TO ANOTHER

The 43rd Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 13:34. That ye love one another.

The Prayer—We are thankful this day for all who love us and let us know they care.

The Affirmation—Today I will express love to others.

The Scripture Lesson—John 13:34-38

The Meditation

Many people will live this day through without a single person saying to them, "I love you."

You can change your home by starting the day with each member of the family saying, "I love you."

A great Christian wife said, "My husband promised me before we married that every night he would say, 'I love you' and kiss me good night." She said he never failed.

Think of the many ways God is trying to say to you, "I love you."

God says, "I love you" through the beauty and inspiration of nature.

In a garden, in a sunset, in the starry sky!

God says, "I love you" through persons, a friend, a minister, a doctor, a servant, a companion, a father, a mother, a child.

God says, "I love you" through His word, His Son, His Spirit, His Salvation.

Will you listen? God is loving you now!

BEING POSSESSED BY LOVE

The 44th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 13:35. If ye have love one to another.

The Prayer—Help us to know, our Father, that we must have love before we can share it.

The Affirmation—Today I will be possessed by love.

The Scripture Lesson—John 14:27-31

The Meditation

Every person is possessed by something.

Some are possessed by pleasure.

Some are possessed by power.

Some are possessed by purpose.

Some are possessed by faith—and

Some are possessed by God and Christian love.

Dr. Thomas Chalmers gave us the expression,
“The expulsive power of a great affection.”

Life's most inspiring experiences come through being possessed by love.

Two young people fall in love—a home is born; a family comes alive.

Two friends meet and the rest of their lives they inspire each other.

A wayward sinner meets Jesus Christ who loves him and transforms him, and he is eternally different.

To be possessed by hate is to be a prisoner.

To be possessed by love is to have endless freedom.

CONTINUING LOVE

The 45th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 15:9. I love you: continue ye in my love.

The Prayer—We thank Thee, Lord Jesus, that thou dost say to us, 'I love you.'

The Affirmation—Each day I want to say 'I love you' and really mean it.

The Scripture Lesson—John 15:4-8

The Meditation

If you want to know who your real friends are, wait until you are defeated, in trouble, or become unpopular because of some stand you have taken.

Continuing love is the true mark of a great Christian character.

We find this in a mother who continues to love her boy when he is wrong and the world has rejected him.

The average modern church has not trained its people to continue in love when some member has gone into embarrassing sin!

Can you continue in love when the mob around you is preaching hate?

Can you continue in love when you are the personal object of someone's ridicule and rejection?

Can you continue in love when you have to live with life's unanswered questions?

Can you continue in love when you are the "victim" and not the "victor"?

Continuing love goes beyond all contemporary reasoning.

For the heart has reasons that the mind does not know.

Listen to Jesus as He says to you—"Continue in my love."

ABIDING IN HIS LOVE

The 46th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 15:10. Ye shall abide in my love.

The Prayer—We thank Thee, O Lord, that we can know that we are abiding in Thy love.

The Affirmation—Today I will let others abide in my love.

The Scripture Lesson—John 15:7-12

The Meditation

Have you ever been to a place to visit where you were most reluctant to leave? Maybe this was a place where people were abiding in love.

It might have been a home, a church, a prayer group, a retreat, a meeting of joyful friends.

A Christian home is a place where people abide in His love. They pray together, they are patient with one another, they maintain good dispositions, they refrain from negative criticism, they refuse to engage in evil gossip, they are happy and hopeful!

Wouldn't you like to have a home like that? You can, by abiding in His love.

Corporate Christian love is the finest fellowship known to men.

This is what the early church experienced. When everybody in a group is thinking loving, Christian thoughts about everyone else in the group, then you have the "body of Christ"—the living church.

Abiding love is not just the impulse of a happy moment.

Abiding love is the intelligent objective of sensible Christian people who work, pray, understand and seek life's highest fellowship.

The more we are like Jesus, the easier it is to love each other; and the more we abide in Him, the more we enjoy abiding with each other.

GREATER LOVE AND GREATER GIVING

The 47th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 15:13. Greater love hath no man.

The Prayer—"Help us to know that the greatest expression of love is to give our lives for others."

The Affirmation—Today I will live love for others.

The Scripture Lesson—John 15:13-18

The Meditation

We will never give our love until first we live our love.

"When I live to give,

And I give to live,

Then I find

A new lift in living!

A new grace in giving!

So:

I want to grow more in giving

And learn to live more in living

Until,

I present myself

A living, loving sacrifice

Wholly acceptable unto God,

Which is my reasonable service!

My service to God!

My service to others!

My service to myself!

I need a greater love!

FIRST LOVE

The 48th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Romans 5:5. Because the love of God is . . . in our hearts.

The Prayer—Teach us, O Lord, to have an undivided love toward Thee all the time.

The Affirmation—Today, God is my first and finest love.

The Scripture Lesson—Romans 12:9-15

The Meditation

God goes with me in my journey of love.

1. He receives me. "He that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out."
2. He forgives me. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins."
3. He opens the door. "I set before you an open door."
4. He provides for me. "I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread."
5. He picks me up when I fall. "Though I fall, I shall not be utterly cast down."
6. He prepares a place for me. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you."
7. He will be with me always and in all ways. "Lo, I am with you always."

GOD GIVES LOVE

The 49th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Romans 5:8. God commendeth his love toward us.

The Prayer—We thank Thee, loving Father, for continually giving us love.

The Affirmation—Today I will be positive in giving my love to others.

The Scripture Lesson—Romans 5:7-11

The Meditation

Because God gives love,

 You give love.

 You live love.

 You leave love.

You lift the load of the lonely ;

You lead the lost into the light ;

You learn life's loftiest lessons.

You own everything you need,

Yet you are possessed by nothing.

You go anywhere and everywhere,

Yet you are always at home.

You live, learn ; you die daily ;

Yet you never cease to live.

 You have learned one of love's greatest lessons.

 People do not always give because they receive,

 But people who love, always receive because
 they are always giving love.

KINDLY AFFECTIONATE

The 50th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Romans 12:10. One to another with brotherly love.

The Prayer—Help me, O Lord, to be completely kind.

The Affirmation—Today I will practice kindness in every relationship.

The Scripture Lesson—Romans 12:17-21

The Meditation

Christian affection gives rise to Christian giving of love.

When you give love

You give the greatest.

You help meet the greatest need in the world.

You share the greatest message in the world.

You bring the greatest hope in the world.

You bring the greatest news
GOD IS LOVE.

Therefore—

With every kind gift,
Give love.

With every kind deed,
Give love.

With every kind thought,
Give love.

With every kind greeting,
Give love.

And His love

Through you will flow
From soul to soul.

And live forever and forever!
Hallelujah!

THE LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT
REIGNETH!

BROTHER IN LOVE

The 51st Day of Love

Memory Verse—Romans 13:10. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor.

The Prayer—Lord, give me a tender compassionate heart, and may I be willing to be tender always.

The Affirmation—Today I will live compassion.

The Scripture Lesson—I Peter 3:8-12

The Meditation

Where am I in my life of compassionate love?

1. In relation to my home and family?
2. In my relation to human need?
3. In my relation to myself?
4. In relation to material things?
5. In relation to money?
6. In relation to problem persons who irritate me?
7. In relation to those who work with me?
8. In relation to jealousy and resentment?
9. In relation to those who disagree with me?
10. In relation to all races?

Compassionate love comes, abides and grows in Christian hearts that cultivate and pray about Christlike concerns for others.

Christ is our great example and our great motivation.

IF I LOVE GOD
The 52nd Day of Love

Memory Verse—I Cor. 8:3. If any man love God.

The Prayer—Help me to always ask the question:
if I love God, will I do this?

The Affirmation—Today my love of God will
determine my actions.

The Scripture Lesson—Romans 8:1-5

The Meditation

When I am tempted to stray
Far from the right away,
There comes to me so fair
The Spirit of Christ for whom I care.
Because
God is there who loves me,
I must be true to the best that is in me.
And
When I remember
How much God cares for me,
It is a better person I want to be.
His love upholds me.
His power enfolds me.
His eye beholds me.
Wonderful God!
Wonderful love!
Wonderful life—always!

LOVING AND LIVING IN CHRIST

The 53rd Day of Love

Memory Verse—I Cor. 16:24. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus.

The Prayer—We are thankful, our Father, for all the love Paul left in his life and his writings.

The Affirmation—I will leave love today wherever I go.

The Scripture Lesson—I Cor. 13: 1-6

The Meditation

It takes a lot of living and loving in a heart to make it a home for all people.

Sometimes it takes years to convince others that we really love them.

If the night of your loving and waiting

Has seemed to you so eternally long,

Just now remember God is waiting and loving with you.

Sometime, somewhere, some day, God will surely have His way.

He will help you and others to see,

What you were both meant to be

In living a life of love so free.

KNOWING HIS LOVE

The 54th Day of Love

Memory Verse—II Cor. 2:4. You might know the love which I have.

The Prayer—Help us, our Father, to know total love for our total life.

The Affirmation—To know Jesus is to know His love. I want to know Him better!

The Scripture Lesson—II Cor. 3:2-6

The Meditation

If we knew as much about love and life when we begin

As we do towards the end,

How careful we would always be

Just to let others see

That love ever lives and grows

In the heart of him who knows;

And he is never hiding

That the Saviour is always abiding;

His hope for us,

His help for us,

His home for us,

His heaven for us!

To know Him in love

Is to live with Him and for Him

Forever and forever!

HIS LOVE AND HIS PEACE

The 55th Day of Love

Memory Verse—II Cor. 13:11. God of love and peace shall be with you.

The Prayer—We are thankful, our Father, that love and peace go with us forever.

The Affirmation—Today I live on the promise of His peace in the fellowship of His love.

The Scripture Lesson—II Cor. 13:7-11

The Meditation

The world's greatest problem is how to live in peace with others.

The crises of peace do not begin at the summit conferences, they begin in the foot hills of fellowship where people meet each other.

Two people rightly related to each other at this moment are a part of the solution of the world's greatest problem.

Two people wrongly related to each other in this moment are a part of the world's greatest problem.

Love and peace are bound together in the wisdom of God and the highest intelligence of the human race.

To love our enemies into being our friends is far more sensible than hating our friends into being our enemies.

When mankind learns to love together, then men will know how to live together in peace!

FAITH WORKS LOVE

The 56th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Gal. 5:6. But faith which worketh by love.

The Prayer—Help us to have faith that Christian love works.

The Affirmation—Today I will prove that love works!

The Scripture Lesson—Gal. 5:14-18

The Meditation

The Bible teaches that faith without works is dead.

Faith without love turns work into slavery.

Love without faith turns our efforts into futility.

Faith, Christian faith, is the fountain at the foot hills of God's mountains of truth.

From this fountain of faith there flows forever free the living love and the loving life of God!

To have faith in the love of God is the first step in motivating our love toward Him and toward others.

The greatest question in the world is this: "Does God care?"

Jesus said, "Yes."

The Bible says, "Yes."

My best friends say, "Yes."

My own salvation says, "Yes."

Life says, "Yes."

Therefore,

I will believe in love, and live in faith until I see Him, face to face!

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

The 57th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Gal. 5:22. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.

The Prayer—Give us thy Spirit, O Lord, and we know that love will come.

The Affirmation—Today I realize that love grows in a garden of related truth.

The Scripture Lesson—Gal. 5:22-26

The Meditation

When love is sought as an isolated virtue, then it may be experienced as an imitated vice.

There are people who believe that God is love, and then they may say love is God. This is idolatry. God is also justice, truth, judgment and eternal, all-knowing wisdom.

The tragedy of the universalist is that he has to have two gods: one for the here and now, and one very different for the hereafter.

If you erase moral distinction from the heart of the universe, you make heaven less honorable than the finest community on earth.

Every fruit of the Spirit makes us a better related person, to God, to others, to ourselves and to eternal truth.

To seek the fruit of love without wisdom or moral distinction is to reach again for the apple in the garden of Eden. For God still walks in the cool of the day saying, "Adam, where art thou"?

KNOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST

The 58th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Eph. 3:19. And to know the love of Christ.

The Prayer—Help us to know Christ in surrender that His love may be redemptive and real.

The Affirmation—Today I seek to know Christ better.

The Scripture Lesson—Gal. 3:14-19

The Meditation

Sometimes we want to know the love of Christ without belonging to Him. To know His love, you must love Him first, and make Him your first love.

You can only know this love by the experience of His love.

You cannot know it by hearing, or reading, or studying, or teaching, or preaching, or practicing love. You can only know His love by knowing Him as Saviour and Lord.

Surrender first to Christ, know His love in forgiveness, in assurance and power; then you can face life and live it triumphantly!

Maybe this is life's greatest knowledge, and heaven's highest wisdom.

Do you know Him?

WALKING IN LOVE

The 59th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Eph. 5:2. And walk in love as Christ also hath.

The Prayer—Help me to walk today in love so that others may follow Christ in love.

The Affirmation—Today Christ walks in love and I walk with Him.

The Scripture Lesson—Ephesians 5:1-6

The Meditation

Everywhere Christ walked, He walked in love.

He was tempted in every point just as we are, yet He never sinned; he just walked in love.

He was abused, lied upon, criticised, condemned, whipped and finally crucified; yet He walked through it all in love. He had the grace of intimate kindness; He kept the confidence of His comradeships because He walked with those who knew Him best in love.

Christ walks through the world today in love. Who will follow; who will go with Him?

He walks through the communist world ever saying, "I love you; follow Me".

He walks through every area of tension between the races, ever saying to all on both sides, "I love you; follow Me". He walks with the lonely, the least, and the lost, ever saying, "I love you, follow Me".

May we sing it, say it, pray it, share it, as our witness.

"Where He leads me, I will follow,
I'll go with Him all the way."

TOGETHER IN LOVE

The 60th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Col. 2:2. Being knit together in love.

The Prayer—Help me to live together in love with all kinds of people.

The Affirmation—I need to be a part of the witness of corporate love.

The Scripture Lesson—Col. 2:1-6

The Meditation

The greatest need for the U.S. in foreign relations, is the need of the witness of corporate love. We preach love, teach love, and propagate love to other nations; but the world doesn't really believe that we love each other here in our nation.

Some of the bitterest hatred in the U.S. is between people who disagree about how the race question should be handled.

Is the witness of politics on a state and national level the witness of corporate love?

The strength of democracy is in the decency of disagreement.

The death of democracy is in the disease of hatred and loss of mutual respect for sincere people who disagree with us.

The highest wisdom for corporate judgment and corporate action always comes through the finest experience of corporate love.

Together we love and live,

Or

Together we hate and die!

Which way will you go?

LABOUR OF LOVE

The 61st Day of Love

Memory Verse—I Th. 1:3. Your work of faith, and labour of love.

The Prayer—Help us to know that to love is to work.

The Affirmation—Today I will work as I love and love as I work.

The Scripture Lesson—I Timothy 6:7-12

The Meditation

The greatest inspiration for any kind of work is the motivation of love.

An artist spends hours on a canvas because this is what he loves.

A mother works all night to care for her child, because she loves.

However, there are a great many people who are not working at what they love. They work because they have to make a living.

What is the answer? A good devotional life added to necessary duty can turn our work into a labour of love.

Resentment makes work seem longer and harder. Love will lighten the load, and make the time go faster.

God has a life work for us all, and this is a labour of love in any situation.

THE LOVE OF MONEY

The 62nd Day of Love

Memory Verse—I Tim. 1:14. Faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

The Prayer—Save us, O Lord, from being possessed by our possessions.

The Affirmation—Today I will love God and others, and examine my heart to see if I have loved money in the wrong way.

The Scripture Lesson—I Timothy 6:7-11

The Meditation

Here are some great battles over money in the lives of different types of persons.

1. The battle with selfishness. What I have is mine.
2. The extremely generous person who never saves for a rainy day.
3. The careless person who does not love money enough to know what becomes of it.
4. The jealous person who hates to see others make more than he makes.
5. The debt slave person who is always borrowing more than he should.
6. The juggler of funds, who robs Peter to pay Paul.
7. The unfair master who does not pay a just wage.
8. The salary seeker whose chief goal is not service, but reward.
9. The foolish investor who is always going to get rich quick.
10. The man who has money for what he wants, but very little for the needs of others.
11. The victim of success who doesn't feel that he needs God and thinks he has honored the church when he makes a small donation.

The Bible still says: "THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL".

GREAT JOY AND GREAT LOVE

The 63rd Day of Love

Memory Verse—I Tim. 6:10. Love of money is the root of all evil.

The Prayer—We are thankful for the healing comfort we find in the love of God.

The Affirmation—Today I will share joyful love.

The Scripture Lesson—Luke 4:14-18

The Meditation

Great joy and great love are the companions in a dedicated life that practices holy habits and healthy living.

People have sought joy in every way that the mind could imagine.

The wisest people I know keep coming back to the Bible and the life of Christ. They know that in Him and through Him are the joys that through all time abide.

As we walked away from the tomb of Lenin in Moscow, I thought of all the sorrow, shame, death, and evil this man helped to bring and perpetuate in the world.

How different when you think of Jesus; this one Divine person who never traveled more than 200 miles from where He was born but has brought more joy and love into the world than any other person who ever touched this planet.

In Christ is our true hope for love and joy, now and forever.

LOVE LIFE

The 64th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Phil. 1:7. For we have great joy and consolation in Thy love.

The Prayer—Help us to love the Giver of life, so that we may properly love to live.

The Affirmation—Today I give my life in the love of others.

The Scripture Lesson—I Peter 3:8-12

The Meditation

One of the finest virtues of the Christian faith is its emphasis on the love of life.

Jesus said, "I am come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly".

The Christian religion teaches self denial but it does not teach life denial.

To love life means to make life count for the most in service to God and others.

The Bible teaches that if we try to save our life we will lose it, but if we give it away then we find life.

There are many people who never learn to live, because they never learn to love.

I never met a man who thought life was not worth living, who really knew how to love as a Christian.

The love for physical life is the strongest urge in the human body.

The love for spiritual life is the highest hope of the human heart.

LOVELESS WORDS—AND WORDLESS LOVING

The 65th Day of Love

Memory Verse—I Peter 3:10. For he that will love life.

The Prayer—Save us, our Father, from letting our love become sounding brass.

The Affirmation—Today I will witness through my words and deeds that love is real.

The Scripture Lesson—I John 3:18-23

The Meditation

A careless word can cut a heart to the quick and make a lifetime enemy.

A silent love that is sincere and consistent is far more eloquent and effective than the gushy sentiment of loud, shallow praise.

The Bible says, "A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger!"

There is a kind way to speak the truth, and thus you help the person to whom you speak.

When people are frustrated and angry, sometimes the sacrament of silent love is both healing and helpful.

Don't you imagine Jesus just looked love toward his disciples, toward the sick, toward his enemies, many times. People read love in His face and they knew He cared.

Your face is the window through which your heart of love can shine to brighten the world.

FAITH AND LOVE

The 66th Day of Love

Memory Verse—I John 3:18. Little children, let us not love in word only.

The Prayer—We are thankful our Father for the perfect example of faith and love in Christ Jesus.

The Affirmation—Today I believe in love, and I will keep love in my faith.

The Scripture Lesson—I Timothy 1:15-19

The Meditation

Jesus Christ was the most intelligently balanced personality the world has ever seen. His faith and his love came to finest flower and fruition in His person, His work, and His life.

It is easy to say we have faith and love, but what the world needs is the witness of these two in perfect combination and balance in personal and corporate life.

Faith and love grow out of faith in love.

There are plenty of people who believe in love, but they do not believe it will work in our kind of world.

There are people who have faith in faith, but they are not always loving about it.

Faith is loving and wanting to believe beyond where we see and understand.

Love is the lift of His presence that makes faith more than intellectual assent. Love makes faith warm, meaningful and vital.

FEAR AND LOVE

The 67th Day of Love

Memory Verse—I John 4:18. There is no fear in love.

The Prayer—Help us, O Lord, to believe that perfect personal love and perfect corporate love cast out fear.

The Affirmation—I am not afraid because I live in love.

The Scripture Lesson—I John 4:17-21

The Meditation

Fear is the father of evil sometimes found in the heart of the faithful.

Fear and hatred are often companion evils that we sustain in relation to others.

The presence of nuclear power in the hands of Russians has caused more fear and perhaps more hate.

Paul and Silas prayed at midnight and a jailer was converted.

Paul, who gave us the 13th Chapter of I Corinthians, seemed to have no fear when he died by the hands of his enemies.

The testimony of so many great Christians is that love has cast out the fear of death.

Love takes away the fear of life.

When we live in His love, we may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds the tomorrow.

We know He has the whole world in His hands.

BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU

The 68th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Deut. 7:8. Because the Lord loves you.

The Prayer—Save us, O Lord, from sinning against Thy love.

The Affirmation—I will remember when I am tempted that the Lord loves me.

The Scripture Lesson—Deuteronomy 7:6-9

The Meditation

The love of God is the strongest force in our universe.

This love is more than just a silent attitude; this love is back of, in and through creation.

The love of God holds us up when we are weak.

The love of God brings forgiveness when we have sinned.

This love is not just futile sentiment. We are saved through this love. Our world is safe through this love.

We need to hear again the great doctrine of the Sovereignty of God giving assurance that he build His kingdom of love in our world.

God's love is not the indulgence of a grandfather. It is His highest intelligence, His supreme character reflective in the infinite channels of His redemptive mission to mankind.

We are saved, and our world shall be safe, because He loves.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

THE LOVE OF PRAISE

The 69th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 12:43. They love the praise of men more.

The Prayer—Save us, our Father, from the vanity of place seeking.

The Affirmation—When others praise me, I will give the praise to God and others.

The Scripture Lesson—John 12:42-46

The Meditation

There have probably been more good, Christian persons ruined through a success complex than have ever been ruined through a sense of failure.

Success is a dangerous thing. Some people can't stand it.

They go through violent personality change.

Sometimes our worst enemy is the one who praises us too much.

The real Christian test of love is our willingness to tell a friend the truth when others are giving Him praise.

To seek praise for the sake of praise, or to seek place for the privileges, is spiritual suicide.

The most subtle form of treason is to do the right thing for the wrong reason.

OUR LOVE FOR THE SICK

The 70th Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 11:3. Behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

The Prayer—We are thankful that God does not send sickness.

The Affirmation—I want to tell others who are sick that God wants them to be well!

The Scripture Lesson—James 5:16-20

The Meditation

It is important to know that the whole field of prayer and healing is coming into the finest day of appreciation and appraisal that the world has ever known.

Right along with the ministry of prayer healing comes the study of the psychosomatic bases of our illnesses. So many intelligent Christian doctors are coming to see and to say that our attitudes are reflected in our bodies.

Intellectually honest science and the Christian religion have come to say together that love is the most important experience for a human being on this planet.

To love the sick could be to teach the sick how to love.

And thus they are helped into wholeness.

LOVING THE STRANGER

The 71st Day of Love

Memory Verse—Deut. 10:18. Love the stranger, in giving him food.

The Prayer—Help us to feed strangers as we would like others to feed us, if we were strangers, and we were hungry.

The Affirmation—I will help feed strangers. So many strangers help to make my food possible every day.

The Scripture Lesson—Deuteronomy 10:18-22

The Meditation

It is sometimes easier to love a stranger than to love someone we have known a long time. We do not know all the faults of the stranger.

Did you ever stop to think about all the strangers involved in making your food possible for just one day? We live because strangers feed us.

It is said that about 10,000 people per day starve to death while we have millions of tons of food stored away.

The stranger at our door is easier to feed than the stranger on the other side of the world—we forget about him.

There are millions who would gladly eat out of our garbage cans if they could only get their hands in them.

We can not win a half-starved world with a half-hearted love.

Could you fast for one meal per month and give to the stranger food that he needs?

MANIFESTED LOVE

The 72nd Day of Love

Memory Verse—I John 4:9. Manifested the love of God toward us.

The Prayer—We are so thankful that God sent Jesus to tell us how much He loved us.

The Affirmation—Today I want to tell others how much God loves them.

The Scripture Lesson—James 2:15-20

The Meditation

Some people are very hesitant about manifesting their love toward anyone. This sometimes is good; it is sometimes bad.

We all know that the person who overdoes the job of manifesting love, becomes a nuisance. The person who never says "I love you" to anyone is not the ideal.

Every day you need four things:

1. You need someone to pray for you by name.
 2. You need someone to listen to you.
 3. You need someone to tell you what a wonderful person you are.
 4. You need someone to say sincerely, "I love you".
- Today would be a good time to start saying, thinking and manifesting love.

THE MOST LOVE

The 73rd Day of Love

Memory Verse—Luke 7:42. Which of them will love Him most?

The Prayer—Help us, O Lord, to know that to be grateful is to be loving.

The Affirmation—Today I want to remember to love as I say, “thank you”.

The Scripture Lesson—Luke 7:40-43

The Meditation

There is nothing quite so demoralizing as to be forgotten.

The forgotten people are the unloved people.

To remember in love is to help a person to live and to find new life.

Jesus helped people who did not return to thank Him.

We are all indebted to more people than we could ever know.

Millions have fought and died for our freedom.

The most love can abide and grow in the most grateful heart.

The selfish, self-centered person is the one who forgets to love, because he has forgotten to give thanks.

Today let's bow our heads and give thanks wherever we are, because we love and we live in God.

WHO SHALL I LOVE?

The 74th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Luke 16:13. He will hate the one, and love the other.

The Prayer—Help us, O Lord, to quit drawing lines around our love.

The Affirmation—Today I love everybody.

The Scripture Lesson—Luke 16:13-17

The Meditation

It is amazing to note that some so-called Christians reserve the right to hate certain specific persons, races, or denominations.

They have actually developed this into a type of self-satisfying logic. This is suicide.

The Bible does not say that we are to only love those who are worthy—we are to love everybody all the time.

We may not understand people, but we can love them.

The saintly Georgia preacher, Bro. Nath Thompson, would pray silently in the pulpit, “Lord, help me to love these people as I know You love them.”

Let us make this a kind of motto prayer as we face and have to live with many types of people.

LOVE AND PROSPERITY

The 75th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Ps. 122:6. They shall prosper that love Thee.

The Prayer—Help us to know that spiritual prosperity is always a result of love.

The Affirmation—Today I am rich in love.

The Scripture Lesson—Psalm 23:1-6

The Meditation

Some of the Hebrews before Jesus believed that the failure to prosper in an economic way was a sign of sin. We now know this is not true.

Sometimes very evil people prosper financially and have more money than they will ever need.

The greatest prosperity is not in the possession of material things.

The greatest prosperity is in spiritual life.

The Bible says, "Lay not up for yourself treasures where moth and rust doth corrupt, but lay up for yourself treasures in heaven".

Love is the greatest possession, and not money. To be rich in love is to prosper in the kingdom of God here and hereafter.

God's love is yours now!

Have you received the full measure?

BANNERS OF LOVE

The 76th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Song of Sol. 2:4. His banner over me was love.

The Prayer—We are thankful our Father that Thou hast placed over each of us the banner of love.

The Affirmation—Today I will live under the banner of His love.

The Scripture Lesson—Psalm 27:7-10

The Meditation

We live in an age when the banners of hate and crime make headline front page news.

What would happen in our society if Christian love started making the headlines with stories of forgiveness and reconciliation?

The coming of Jesus is the greatest event in history. He came on a mission of love. He is the Father's banner over us.

Secret and silent love can be sweet and sacred but what our world really needs is a great invasion of love in every area of our culture: in business, in politics, in social life, in education.

The banner of love is the banner of intelligence for a confused world.

Let's fly it high.

THE LOVE THAT OVERCOMES

The 77th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Song of Sol. 8:7. Many waters can not quench love.

The Prayer—May nothing ever quench my love for Thee and others.

The Affirmation—Today I will not let my love be drowned by duties.

The Scripture Lesson—Philippians 3:8-10

The Meditation

If love is going to grow in your life, it must have attention.

When love dies in a home or a friendship, it is usually not killed deliberately, but dies of neglect because life becomes too crowded.

Love is never neutral. Love that does not grow is apt to die. Love can die so quietly you will not know it until it is too late.

The love that overcomes is the love that is constantly renewed at the fountain of prayer.

Christian love lives and overcomes because it has the power of God.

To quench love is to refuse to let it have expression. This is one great reason why it is so important to keep on saying "I love you", and to keep on doing deeds of love.

KEEPING IN HIS LOVE

The 78th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Amos 5:15. Hate the evil, and love the good.

The Prayer—Help me, O God, to know what is my part in keeping myself in love with Thee.

The Affirmation—Today I will keep faith with Him who loves me.

The Scripture Lesson—Jude 1:21-25

The Meditation

Since God's love has moral requirements, both for the Creator and the creature, it is well for us to remember that we must not trifle with His love.

There is a type of belief that puts everything on God and makes man a puppet. This is foolish and self-deceiving.

There is a self-sufficient humanism that makes man his own saviour, and thus he thinks he does not need God's love.

You keep in God's redemptive love by prayer, daily Bible reading, continued surrender, and fellowship in worship with loving people.

To keep in His love means to keep in the consciousness of His divine presence.

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

THE ROOTS OF LOVE

The 79th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Ephesians 3:17. That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.

The Prayer—Help me, O Lord, to go deep in my experience of love with Thee.

The Affirmation—Today I will give attention to the hidden roots of love.

The Scripture Lesson—Ephesians 3:14-19

The Meditation

Sometimes we try to grow the fruits of Christian love from un-Christian trees—this cannot be done. There is a direct relationship between the roots and the fruits of love.

1. Roots of love must be grounded in the truth of God, the Bible and human nature.
2. Love that tries to grow in the shallow ground of doubt, cynicism and materialism is headed for death.
3. Ground your love in the faith that GOD IS LOVE.
4. Ground your love in the faith that love is the highest intelligence known to man.
5. When the fruits of love are sought apart from the roots of love, then you may have a cut-flower religion.
6. Most of the roots of a tree are hidden. So are the great roots of love as they grow deep in God's eternal truths.

ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS

The 80th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Eph. 4:15. Speaking the truth in love.

The Prayer—Help me today to live the truth in love.

The Affirmation—Today I will have love in my voice all day.

The Scripture Lesson—Matthew 22:36-40

The Meditation

Jesus explained that to love God and to love your neighbor belonged together.

A great minister once said, "You cannot be right with God and wrong with your neighbor".

The wisdom of Jesus is verified in the lives of millions.

The people who really obey God are the people who love God.

The legalist and the hard, disciplined man have trouble with love . . . because they seemed to put law and discipline above love.

Jesus believed that character is determined from the inside out. If you love God you want to do good and be good.

If you do not love God, then obedience is oppressive.

Grace is the banner of God over us and the power of God within us, because we live in love.

LOVE AS A FRUIT

The 81st Day of Love

Memory Verse—Gal. 5:22. The fruit of the Spirit is love.

The Prayer—Help us to remember that only a Christian Life brings forth Christian victory.

The Affirmation—I want to live so that it is natural for me to love and to have victory.

The Scripture Lesson—I John 2:4-7

The Meditation

Love is always related to something else or somebody else.

Love grows from a resource, a relationship, a life. Love in its fulfillment is a relationship; a relation to another, a relation to God.

Isolated love is an impossibility. You can never build a fence around love.

You can never hoard love. You can never save up love to be used later.

Love is a living thing . . . a thought, a wish, a prayer.

Love is a moving thing, from your heart . . . out everywhere.

If you hold it, you loose it;

If you are wise, you choose it;

If you are careless, you abuse it;

If you are intelligent, you use it;

Love is living, this is true;

Does this love live in you?

TOGETHER WE LOVE, TOGETHER WE LIVE

The 82nd Day of Love

Memory Verse—I John 4:11. If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

The Prayer—We are thankful that we can love together and live together.

The Affirmation—I will live in the fellowship of love.

The Scripture Lesson—Hebrews 13:1-6

The Meditation

It is easier to continue in personal love than it is to continue in corporate love. As a rule, it is easier to continue love in a small group than in a large group.

The ultimate challenge of this great corporate love is to know and experience this love for the whole world as one fellowship.

We learn to live together by living together.

We learn to love together by loving together.

The comradeship of a common fear will unite a nation to fight.

The comradeship of a common hope may unite us to work.

But it takes the comradeship of Christ to heal our differences, to forgive our sins, to creatively unite us in love and continue us in brotherly love.

Together in Christ we live.

Together in Christ we love.

PATIENCE TO LOVE

The 83rd Day of Love

Memory Verse—Eph. 4:2. Forbearing one another in love.

The Prayer—Give me patience, O Lord, to love people who are difficult to love.

The Affirmation—Today I will try to make it easier for others to love me, and easier for me to love others.

The Scripture Lesson—Ephesians 4:1-6

The Meditation

For many people, love is a resource or reference toward which they turn, or in which they indulge at will.

Christian love is the constant abiding of love as a consistent witness to the presence of Christ's spirit in all situations that we face.

Love at its best, meets life at its worst, and in the darkest night, holds up a light and shouts to the world, "This is right. Love! Love! Love!"

Love untested, may be weak, complacent and ineffective.

Love that gives us patience is deliberate, dedicated intentional and made possible by God's grace.

If we understood our own needs completely, don't you think we would be more patient with others?

When we remember God's patience with us, it is much easier to be patient in love toward others.

LOVING A BROTHERHOOD

The 84th Day of Love

Memory Verse—I Peter 2:22. Love one another with a pure heart fervently.

The Prayer—Our Father, help us to have hearts and minds that are so Christian that we can love the whole brotherhood.

The Affirmation—Today I will love all races of people.

The Scripture Lesson—I Peter 2:17-21

The Meditation

When we accept the great Bible truth of the fatherhood of God, then we can accept the brotherhood of man.

When we are born again as Christians, we are born into the family of God. God is our father, Jesus Christ is our Saviour, and we are brothers in Christ to those who belong to Christ.

When we are in an earthly family, we find disagreements; but this does not mean that we cease to love just because we disagree. To be born into the brotherhood of God's family does not mean that we will be just like all the other brothers in the family.

Christians sometimes are intolerant of other Christians who disagree with them.

To love the brotherhood means that we must not be intolerant of the intolerant.

Do you love the people who hate other people?

HOW LARGE IS YOUR LOVE?

The 85th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Proverbs 10:12. Love covereth all sins.

The Prayer—We are thankful, our Father, for Your love that covereth all our sins.

The Affirmation—His love is larger than all my sins.

The Scripture Lesson—Psalm 51:10-13

The Meditation

For one thing to cover another, the one that covers must be the larger.

How large is your love?

Do you love some people with some sins, but some others with certain sins you refuse to love?

Most church members are not trained to have a large enough love.

When one church member is overtaken with an embarrassing sin, other church members may want to pass him by and have nothing to do with him.

We know this is not Christ-like.

Jesus was numbered with the transgressors. He went to be guest with some who were sinners.

A Christian mother loves her son, regardless of what he has done.

Jesus said, and He still says, "As I have loved you, love one another".

Life is going to demand of you a larger love than you now have.

How big is your love?

A DINNER OF LOVE

The 86th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Prov. 15:17. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is.

The Prayer—Help us to have love and share love as we share our food together.

The Affirmation—Today I will be courteous in manners, kind in thought, and loving in conversation, as I eat with others.

The Scripture Lesson—Luke 19:5-10

The Meditation

The most constant and continuous fellowship we know is the fellowship of eating. When you have eaten with others for 50 years, and you average eating with one other person per meal you have had more than 50,000 opportunities to show love while you eat.

There are probably millions of people who are sick right now, who tried eating without loving. A 'glad stomach' is just as important as a happy heart.

Have you ever noticed how careful you are to use the best manners when you have company around the table? Wouldn't it be wonderful if our families could be like this all the time? They could be.

When Jesus went home with Zaccheus, you may be sure there was a 'dinner of love'.

Do people ever linger in fellowship at the dinners of love in your home?

NEIGHBORS WE LOVE

The 87th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Romans 13:9. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

The Prayer—O Lord, help me to be the kind of neighbor I want others to be toward me.

The Affirmation—If the world is one neighborhood, then, I must be everybody's neighbor. What a thought!

The Scripture Lesson—Romans 13:9

The Meditation

Two of the miracles of the modern world are communication and travel. In conversation you are only a telephone away, a word away from a person across the world.

In this jet age you are only hours away from some one on the other side of the world. In news reporting, wherever there is a TV we have a ringside seat as we hear the news on the day or night it happens around the world.

Science has truly turned the world into a neighborhood. Now Christian love must turn the world into a brotherhood.

Education alone cannot turn the world into a brotherhood.

Politics cannot turn the world into a brotherhood.

Military power cannot turn the world into a brotherhood.

Only the power of Almighty God in Christian love, through united prayer, can turn the world into a brotherhood of loving neighbors.

How many neighbors do you have who know you as a brother?

PERSON-TO-PERSON LOVE

The 88th Day of Love

Memory Verse—II Sam. 1:26. Thy love to me was wonderful.

The Prayer—We thank Thee, our Father, for every person who loves us as individuals.

The Affirmation—Today I will love specific persons.

The Scripture Lesson—Philippians 1:3-6, 9

The Meditation

God knows everything about us, and yet He loves us just as we are as individuals.

Some people try to love persons as they are not! This is foolish. You can only truly love people as they are!

Some People hate persons as they are not! Think of the worst person you know! He has probably never been as bad as you have thought him to be in your worst moments.

“Wonderful Love” is the love that is intelligent enough to know us and yet big enough to really care for us with continuing concern.

The greatest single factor in the making of a great person is the love of another person.

When you truly love a person, you are going to keep on loving him regardless of what he does. It is hard to get people to realize that God loves “bad” people just as much as He loves good people.

Jesus lived and died for His enemies as truly as He died for his friends!

Love so amazing, love so divine!

SINCERE LOVE

The 89th Day of Love

Memory Verse—II Cor. 8:8. To prove the sincerity of your love.

The Prayer—We are thankful that Jesus has proven the sincerity of His love to us over and over again.

The Affirmation—Lord Jesus, I sincerely love Thee—and Thou art helping me to sincerely love others.

The Scripture Lesson—II Corinthians 8:1-7

The Meditation

“Sincere Christian love” is just about the most beautiful jewel you possess!

Do you know how many people sincerely love you? Wait until something goes wrong and you will find out. Only a few will stand by you.

Sincere Christian love has these qualities:

- (1) It is constant in its reality.
- (2) It is continuous in its application.
- (3) It is forgiving in its nature.
- (4) It is charitable in its judgments.
- (5) It is healing in its power.
- (6) It is glad in its response.
- (7) It is faithful in obedience.
- (8) It is generous in giving and helping another.
- (9) It is courageous in facing truth about anyone or any situation.
- (10) It is eternal in its relationship.

True love never dies!

And remember:

**There is never a final word between friends
Because: They have sincere love!**

FREELY LOVE

THE 90th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Hos. 11:4. I will love them freely.

**The Prayer—Help us, our Father, to love others
as freely as You have loved us.**

**The Affirmation—I want to come into the free-
dom of boundless love—today!**

The Scripture Lesson—Hosea 11:1-4, 3:1-3

The Meditation

**When I take the limits off of my love,
Then His love, as Savior, takes the limits off me,
and then,**

I am free to love freely!

Because He is loving freely through me.

Therefore:

**I find that when I give love freely, I have more
love to freely give.**

A lot of good people

Do not seem to know

That when you have love

You've got to let it go!

When you continually

Refuse to let love go,

You may be assured

Your love will not grow!

More loves come in

To the heart that lets it out!

And it is only then

We know what life is about!

The more freely we give,

The more joyously we live

In our thoughts, our deeds,

Our words and our creeds!

Let us give love away!

Let us remember

Freely you have received;

Freely give.

LETTING OTHERS LOVE

The 91st Day of Love

Memory Verse—John 4:7. Let us love one another.

The Prayer—Our Father we acknowledge the need of Thy help in loving one another.

The Affirmation—Today I need to be with others who love—so I will help others to be loving.

The Scripture Lesson—I John 1:5-10

The Meditation

The key word here is “let”. There are lots of people who are not free to love others. Sin has them bound. Prejudice has them in prison. Pride has them bound! Resentment has poisoned their imagination! The happiest people in the world are those who are free to love.

Sin is a jealous master. Sin wants you to love more sin, and sin won't let you love other people as God wants you to love!

If you are having trouble loving other people, the trouble is not in others; the trouble is in you. Jesus loves everybody, including those you do not love.

You can spell all your love troubles with three little letters: SIN.

The more completely you belong to Jesus Christ, the more freely you can love everybody!

Death is the gateway to the eternal freedom of eternal love!

But it can begin now!

LOVING PLEASURE

The 92nd Day of Love

Memory Verse—Jude 1:21. Keep yourselves in the love of God.

The Prayer—Help me to see, O God, how the love of pleasure has saturated our world.

The Affirmation—I am willing to give up pleasure because I love God, the church, and others more.

The Scripture Lesson—II Timothy 3:1-5

The Meditation

When “pleasure” is our God, then God is not our “pleasure.”

Most people do what they please with most of life; but they often find out that when they do what they please, they are not always pleased with what they do, and they are not always pleased with what they become!

Is the drunkard pleased with the wrecks he has caused that killed?

Is the immoral man pleased with his guilty conscience?

Is the careless man pleased with the money he has spent on pleasure, that he now needs to buy food or pay past due bills?

Many things in the world that look like pleasure are not pleasure at all!

In the end they bring sorrow and shame!

The greatest pleasure is in a clear conscience, a right relationship with God, and a loving attitude toward all people.

The pleasure of love is loving that pleases God—and then we know joys that through all time abide!

GIVING ATTENTION TO LOVE

The 93rd Day of Love

Memory Verse—Jos. 22:5. Take diligent heed . . . to love the Lord your God.

The Prayer—When I am slipping out of Thy love, help me to know it, O God.

The Affirmation—Today—all day—I will give attention to love.

The Meditation

The only way you can truly know where you are in love, is to know where you are in relation to all you should love.

A little resentment when left alone, or encouraged to grow, may one day mature into the monster of "hate."

You do not know where you are in life until you know where you are in love!

Emotional ecstasy or occasional generosity to quiet our selfish conscience is not the answer. Perhaps it would be more accurate to evaluate the difficult situations of life.

How do I feel toward a person who has wronged me many years ago and has never made it right?

How long since I have assured an enemy that I loved him?

When I am crossed up and hindered in trying to do what I believe is right, how do I re-act?

Newborn love is somewhat like a newborn baby!

Both of them have to have constant attention if they are going to grow up and mature! Give attention to love!

LOVING THE LORD

The 94th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Ps. 31:23. O love the Lord, all His saints.

The Prayer—We are thankful, our Father, for the invitation to love Thee.

The Affirmation—The greatest sin in the world is the sin of lovelessness.

The Scripture Lesson—Isaiah 43:1-3, 43:18-19

The Meditation

It is difficult to find two types of persons.

First: A person who really hates the Lord.

Second: A person who loves the Lord with all His heart.

Most of us come somewhere in between these two extremes.

How would you convince yourself that you really loved the Lord?

Here are some possible ways:

- (1) By doing what God wants you to do!
- (2) By loving what and whom God loves!
- (3) By loving the church!
- (4) By helping those that God is helping.
- (5) By giving to God and His work what He wants you to give.
- (6) By giving God what He wants most from you—your heart and your life.

To love sin is to become a slave!

To love God is to be set free!

Therefore, choose to love the Lord and you will know His gracious freedom!

LOVING THE LAW

The 95th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Ps. 110:97. O, how love I thy law!

The Prayer—Help me to love to do right as well as loving to be right.

The Affirmation—Today I will show my love for God and others through my obedience to what is right.

The Scripture Lesson—Matthew 5:17-20

The Meditation

Perhaps it is correct to say that most good citizens love the “law” when they think of it objectively!

How different we feel when we are caught up in disobedience of the law!

To love a law means to obey the law cheerfully, gladly, constantly!

Would it be correct to say that the hardest task we have is not in loving God but in loving God’s laws?

Let us remember that every law of God is a law of love!

When we are saved, we are not saved from law, we are saved from the disobedience of law!

There is no basic conflict in law and grace when you realize that you are dealing ultimately with a person who is Love!

To love God’s law is to love what is eternally right!

If you love “love”, and you don’t love “law”, then you can lose your love, be lost to His law, and lose your life!

AFFLICTION AND LOVE

The 96th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Ps. 119:127. I love thy commandments above gold.

The Scripture Lesson—Proverbs 6:16-19

The Meditation

Suffering and love often travel together in the same personality. Jesus suffered for and with the people who crucified Him.

The President of the United States was shot while on a happy tour of a great city. His loving wife was by his side. He died in less than an hour. Mournful millions wondered why this happened.

People came from across the world to Washington on a mission of love, prayer and sympathy.

I have seen good people with broken bodies, yet they lived in triumphant love.

The relation of affliction and love is more than an academic question; it is one of the solemn relationships of life. Faith in a God of love is the finest resource available for the facing of this fact.

Out of our affliction comes a witness of love, and people see it more clearly because it is etched against a dark background.

This love was in the life of our Lord.

LOVE, LAW, AND PEACE

The 97th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Ps. 119:165. Great peace have they which love thy law.

The Prayer—We are thankful, our Father, for the peace of God which comes through obedience.

The Affirmation—Today I am at peace, because God is in command! May it be this way all the other days of my life.

The Scripture Lesson—John 14:24-27

The Meditation

Some people seem to think that peace on earth will come through passing and enforcing world law. This will indeed give a necessary peace, as a framework in which we live. However, we must remember that human law is only the half-way house; it can never bring the deep abiding inward peace which God wants us all to have.

It is one thing for a man to obey the law because he is afraid; it is quite another thing for a man to obey the law because He loves the law!

The world seems to be living in the truce of a cold war.

This is our chance to get people to love what is right.

We will find it is much easier to get people to love each other when they both love the law.

The love of man-made law brings outward peace!

The love of God's laws brings inward peace—the peace that passes all understanding and all misunderstanding!

THE LOVE OF VANITY

The 98th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Ps. 145:20. The Lord preserveth all them that love Him.

The Prayer—Help us, O Lord, to see and to grasp the meaning of the affection for vanity in our culture.

The Affirmation—I need to see the vanity in my life, and to know why I have loved this vanity so.

The Scripture Lesson—Ecclesiastes 1:1, 14, 15, 11:9, 12:1, 13, 14

The Meditation

There has never been a day before when people were capable of having so many “WANTS” as today. So much modern advertising is made to appeal to one’s vanity.

Style has caught us up and made us slaves and fanatics in the mad race of culture.

We seem to grow more ignorant concerning the futility of the love of vanity. For many of us, we could truly say that our parents and grandparents had a better sense of value than we have.

The modern church as a whole has utterly failed the modern man in this crisis with vanity. Why? Because the church has been caught up in the love of vanity—the vanity of having a large crowd; the vanity of statistics, the vanity of gorgeous architecture and fabulous buildings, the vanity of place and prestige.

A place-seeking minister who works and schemes to get a fabulous salary and live in a fifty thousand dollar home could hardly be expected to preach effectively on “the love of vanity.”

Jesus was free from the love of vanity.

Let’s follow Him! Always and in all ways!

DWELLING IN LOVE

The 99th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Ps. 4:2. How long will ye love vanity.

The Prayer—We are thankful, our Father, that we shall dwell in Thy house of love forever.

The Affirmation—Today I am living in eternity; therefore, I am abiding in eternal love.

The Scripture Lesson—John 14:1-3

The Meditation

Love is the greatest thing in a home and it makes for happy, creative family Life.

Love is the greatest thing in a church, and it makes for the finest fellowship on earth.

Love is the greatest thing in a community, and it will help you to have the finest neighbors and to be the best neighbor you have ever been.

Love is the greatest thing in a nation, and it will help build Christian democracy.

Love will help labor and capital work out their differences.

Love will help all races to work out their Divine duty and their Divine Destiny.

Love will help our nation to work out a peaceful relation and proper appreciation for all other nations.

United prayer through which united love can come is the last best hope of the human race.

Will you continue to share the love and compassion that Jesus shares with all the world, until at last His love shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea!

IN LOVE—FOREVER

THE 100th Day of Love

Memory Verse—Ps. 69:36. They that love His name shall dwell . . .

The Prayer—Lord Jesus, I know you love me and you know I love you. May we, please, continue our love for each other, and our love for all others, forever and forever.

The Affirmation—Today I finish to begin. I finish the hundred days of love to begin the greatest days of love and life I have ever known.

A PERSONAL WORD

Dear Reader:

As a comrade in Christ may I share my love for you and with you in these possibilities of love and growth.

- (1) Tonight at midnight you come to the end of a journey of one hundred days of love. Now that you have lived these days in love by God's help, will you evaluate your own experience and share this invitation for a hundred days of love with someone else?
- (2) That God may minister to you through memory in the years ahead, would you consider making note of this experience in your Bible and recording the dates of the beginning and end of this experience of love?
- (3) Please do not let this little book gather dust on your library shelf, tell others what God has done for you in these hundred days of love. Start your book on a journey of love by loaning it now to others.
- (4) Write a letter to someone, praising God, and tell them what this has meant to you: "A Hundred Days of Love."
- (5) If some great experience has come that you want many others to know about, please write me about it.

All glory and praise be to God, the Father, God, the Son, God, the Holy Spirit for all the blessings that have come through these hundred days, and for blessings yet to come!

Now pause and pray a prayer for the continued ministry of this book to the ends of the earth!

Thank you.

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The following is reproduced from THE LIVING BIBLE, a modern paraphrase by Kenneth Taylor. Permission to print this passage was arranged with Tyndale House, Publishers, of Wheaton, Illinois.

THE LIVING BIBLE is an outgrowth of LIVING LETTERS, in which Mr. Taylor sought to make the Pauline Epistles understandable to his children. Its enthusiastic acceptance by leading theologians of many faiths inspired him to continue his paraphrasing to cover the entire Bible. This task consumed seventeen years.

THE LIVING BIBLE has sold more than two million copies, and millions of New Testament and individual Books excerpted from it. It has become the fastest selling Bible, especially to young people.

The following is reprinted here for easy comparison with the various Bible translations used in the text. It has been arranged for responsive reading, with the hope that it will be used regularly for worship in churches, study and prayer groups.

Thomas A. Carruth

The Psalms

PSALM 18

(This song of David was written at a time when the Lord had delivered him from his many enemies, including Saul.)

Lord, how I love You! For You have done such tremendous things for me.

2 The Lord is my fort where I can enter and be safe; no one can follow me in and slay me. He is a rugged mountain where I hide; He is my Savior, a rock where none can reach me, and a tower of safety. He is my shield. He is like the strong horn of a mighty fighting bull.

3 All I need to do is cry to Him—oh, praise the Lord—and I am saved from all my enemies!

4 Death bound me with chains, and the floods of ungodliness mounted a massive attack against me.

5 Trapped and helpless, I struggled against the ropes that drew me on to death.

6 In my distress I screamed to the Lord for His help. And He heard me from heaven;^a my cry reached His ears.

7 Then the earth rocked and reeled, and mountains shook and trembled. How they quaked! For He was angry.

^aLiterally, "out of His temple."

8 Fierce flames leaped from His mouth, setting fire to the earth;⁷ smoke blew from His nostrils.

9 He bent the heavens down and came to my defense;⁸ thick darkness was beneath His feet.

10 Mounted on the cherubim* He sped swiftly to my aid with wings of wind.

11 He enshrouded Himself with darkness, veiling His approach with dense clouds dark as murky waters.

12 Suddenly the brilliance of His presence broke through the clouds with lightning⁹ and a mighty storm of hail.

13 The Lord thundered in the heavens; the God above all gods has spoken—oh, the hailstones; oh, the fire!

14 He flashed His fearful arrows of lightning and routed all my enemies. See how they run!

15 Then at Your command, O Lord, the sea receded from the shore. At the blast of Your breath the depths were laid bare.

16 He reached down from heaven and took me and drew me out of my great trials. He rescued me from deep waters.

17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me—I who was helpless in their hands.

18 On the day when I was weakest, they attacked. But the Lord held me steady.

⁷Literally, "coals were kindled by it."

⁸Implied.

⁹Literally, "a cherub."

¹⁰Literally, "coals of fire."

19 He led me to a place of safety, for He delights in me.

20 The Lord rewarded me for doing right and being pure.

21 For I have followed His commands and have not sinned by turning back from following Him.

22 I kept close watch on all His laws; I did not refuse a single one.

23 I did my best to keep them all, holding myself back from doing wrong.

24 And so the Lord has paid me with His blessings, for I have done what is right, and I am pure of heart. This He knows, for He watches my every step.

25 Lord, how merciful You are to those who are merciful. And You do not punish those who run from evil.¹

26 You give blessings to the pure but pain to those who leave Your paths.

27 You deliver the humble but condemn the proud and haughty ones.

28 You have turned on my light! The Lord my God has made my darkness turn to light.

29 Now in Your strength I can scale any wall, attack any troop.

30 What a God He is! How perfect in every way! All His promises prove true. He is a shield for everyone who hides behind Him.

31 For who is God except our Lord? Who but He is as a rock?

¹Literally, "with the upright You show Yourself upright."

32 He fills me with strength and protects me wherever I go.

33 He gives me the surefootedness of a mountain goat upon the crags. He leads me safely along the top of the cliffs.

34 He prepares me for battle and gives me strength to draw an iron² bow!

35 You have given me Your salvation as my shield. Your right hand, O Lord, supports me; Your gentleness has made me great.

36 You have made wide steps beneath my feet so that I need never slip.

37 I chased my enemies; I caught up with them and did not turn back until all were conquered.

38 I pinned them to the ground; all were helpless before me. I placed my feet upon their necks!

39 For You have armed me with strong armor for the battle. My enemies quail before me and fall defeated at my feet.

40 You made them turn and run; I destroyed all who hated me.

41 They shouted for help but no one dared to rescue them; they cried to the Lord, but He refused to answer them.

42 So I crushed them fine as dust and cast them to the wind. I threw them away like sweepings from the floor.

43, 44, 45 You gave me victory in every battle! The nations came and served me.

²Literally, "a bow of bronze."

Even those I didn't know before come now and bow before me. Foreigners who have never seen me submit instantly. They come trembling from their strongholds.

46 God is alive! Praise Him who is the great rock of protection.

47 He is the God who pays back those who harm me and subdues the nations before me.

48 He rescues me from my enemies; He holds me safely out of their reach and saves me from these powerful opponents.

49 For this, O Lord, I will praise You among the nations.

50 Many times You have miraculously rescued me, the king You appointed. You have been loving and kind to me and will be to my descendants.

PSALM 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; they are a marvelous display of His craftsmanship.

2 Day and night they keep on telling about God.

3, 4 Without a sound or word, silent in the skies, their message reaches out to all the world.

The sun lives in the heavens where God placed it

5 And moves out across the skies as radiant³ as a bridegroom going to his wedding,⁴ or as joyous as an athlete looking forward to a race!

³Implied. Literally, "is like a bridegroom."

⁴Implied. Literally, "going forth from his chamber."

6 It crosses the heavens from end to end, and nothing can hide from its heat.

* * * * *

7, 8 God's laws are perfect. They protect us, make us wise, and give us joy and light.

9 God's laws are just and perfect. Reverence for God keeps us pure and leads us on to heaven.⁶

10 His laws are more desirable than gold. They are sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.

11 For they warn us away from harm and give success to those who obey them!

12 But how can I ever know what sins are lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults.

13 And keep me from deliberate wrongs; help me to stop doing them. Only then can I be free of guilt and innocent of some great crime.

14 May my spoken words and unspoken thoughts be pleasing even to You, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer.

PSALM 23

Because the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need!

2, 3 He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the quiet streams. He restores my failing health. He helps me do what honors Him most.

4 Even when walking through the Dark Valley of death I will not be afraid, for You are close beside me, guarding, guiding all the way.⁸

5 You provide delicious food for me in the presence of my enemies. You have welcomed me as Your guest;⁵ blessings overflow!

6 Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all of my life, and afterwards I will live with You forever in Your home.

⁵Literally, "Your rod and Your staff comfort me."

⁶Literally, "You have anointed my head with oil, my cup runs over."

PSALM 24

The earth belongs to God! Everything in all the world is His!

2 He is the One who pushed the oceans back to let dry land appear.⁶

3 Who may climb the mountain of the Lord and enter where He lives? Who may stand before the Lord?

4 Only those with pure hands and hearts, who do not practice dishonesty and lying.

5 They will receive God's own goodness⁷ as their blessing from Him, planted in their lives by God Himself, their Savior.

6 These are the ones who are allowed to stand before the Lord and worship the God of Jacob.

7 Open up, O ancient gates, and let the King of Glory in.

8 Who is this King of Glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, invincible in battle.

9 Yes, open wide the gates and let the King of Glory in.

10 Who is this King of Glory? The Commander of all of heaven's armies!

PSALM 84

How lovely is Your Temple, O Lord of the armies of heaven.

2 I long, yes, faint with longing to be able to enter Your courtyard and come near to the Living God.

3 Even the sparrows and swallows are welcome to come and nest among Your altars and there have their young, O Lord of heaven's armies, my King and my God!

4 How happy are Your priests who can always be in Your Temple, singing Your praises.

5 Happy are those who are strong in the Lord, who want above all else to follow Your steps.

6 When they walk through the Valley of Weeping it will become a place of springs where pools of blessing and refreshment collect after rains!

7 They will grow constantly in strength and each of them is invited to meet with the Lord in Zion!

8 O Jehovah, God of the heavenly armies, hear my prayer! Listen, God of Israel.

9 O God, our Defender and our Shield, have mercy on the one You have anointed as Your king.⁶

10 A single day spent in Your Temple is better than a thousand anywhere else! I would rather be a doorman of the Temple of my God than live in palaces⁷ of wickedness.

11 For Jehovah God is our Light and our Protector. He gives us grace and glory. No good thing will He withhold from those who walk along His paths.⁸

12 O Lord of the armies of heaven, blessed are those who trust in You.

PSALM 85

Lord, You have poured out amazing blessings on this land! You have restored the fortunes^o of Israel,

2 And forgiven the sins of Your people—yes, covered over each one,

3 So that all Your wrath, Your blazing anger, is now ended.

4 Now bring us back to loving You¹, O Lord, so that Your anger will never need rise against us again.

PSALM 101

I will sing about Your lovingkindness and Your justice, Lord. I will sing Your praises!

2 I will try to walk a blameless path, but how I need Your help; especially in my own home, where I long to act as I should.

3 Help me to refuse the low and vulgar things; help me to abhor all crooked deals of every kind, to have no part in them.

4 I will reject all selfishness and stay away from every evil.

5 I will not tolerate any slander of my neighbors; I will not permit conceit and pride.

6 I will make the godly of the land my heroes, and invite them to my home. Those who are truly good shall be my examples.

7 But I will not allow those who deceive and lie to stay in my house.

8 My daily task will be to ferret out criminals and free the city of God from their grip.

I CORINTHIANS

CHAPTER 13

If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them, and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise.

2 If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about *everything*, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move. I would still be worth nothing at all without love.

3 If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever.

4 Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud,

5 Never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong.

6 It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out.

7 If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him.

8 All the special gifts and powers from God will some day come to an end, but love goes on forever. Some day prophecy, and speaking in unknown languages, and special knowledge—these gifts will disappear.

9 Now we know so little, even with our special gifts, and the preaching of those most gifted is still so poor.

10 But when we have been made perfect and complete, then the need for these inadequate special gifts will come to an end, and they will disappear.

11 It's like this: when I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away the childish things.

12 In the same way, we can see and understand only a little about God now, as if we were peering at His reflection in a poor mirror; but someday we are going to see Him in His completeness, face to face. Now all that I know is hazy and blurred, but then I will see everything clearly, just as clearly as God sees into my heart right now.

13 There are three things that remain—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love.

RESPONSIVE READING

LOVING OTHERS

Leader: For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? (Matthew 5:46).

Response: But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you: (Matthew 5:44).

Leader: Honour thy father and thy mother; and, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (Matthew 19:19).

Response: But I say unto you which hear, love your enemies, do good to them which hate you. (Luke 6:27).

Leader: Let brotherly love continue. (Hebrews 13:1).

Response: A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. (John 13:34).

Leader: By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:35).

Response: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13).

Leader: Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; (Romans 12:10).

Response: Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: (I Peter 3:8).

Leader: That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; (Colossians 2:2).

Response: My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth: (I John 3:18).

Leader: There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (I John 4:18).

Response: And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? (Luke 7:42).

Leader: With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; (Ephesians 4:2).

Response: For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill' Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. (Romans 13:9).

Leader: I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful. (II Samuel 1:26)

Response: Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. (I John 4:7).

In Unison: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (Romans 8:35).

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come. (Romans 8:38).

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39).

LOVE IN ACTION

Love learned intellectually will never change any person, church or situation. Jesus LIVED love constantly; He talked about love only occasionally. Witness Him healing the afflicted, feeding the hungry, comforting the oppressed, blessing the children, breaking down social, racial and political walls. His summation, in words and in deeds, of all the commandments was "Love God; love one another." To Him these were ONE commandment.

Here are a few suggestions for Christians who want to LIVE love:

1. Go to someone you have a grudge against, or who has a grudge against you. Don't mention the grudge. Just show that person you love him. Take flowers from your garden, a plate of cookies or a toy for the children, or a favorite book.

2. If you have wronged a person, or if he imagines that you have, apologize briefly and sincerely. Don't hash over the wrong. Don't make excuses for yourself. Don't pin the blame on him. Just say, "Where I was wrong, I want to make it right."

3. Find a lonely old person in your community, and pay a visit, or invite him to a meal in your home. Don't be condescending. Just show him the courtesies you would show an honored friend.

4. Find a young "misfit" and include him in the next church or family activity suitable to his age. Don't treat him as a "case," but make him a part of the group.

5. Show your family that they are important to you. Mothers, fix someone's favorite dish each day. Make meal-times happy times for all. Fathers, take at least an hour each week to be alone with each member of the family. Do what that member likes to do, whether it is flying a kite, shooting marbles, pushing a doll buggy, or attending a concert your wife wants to attend. If the activity bores

you, hide it in helping others to enjoy it.

6. Write a note to your pastor and tell him you appreciate him. Ask what chores you can help him do. Learn what needs the church has, then try to fill them.

7. Get a list of the really poor families in your community and visit some of them in love. Learn what their needs are, and how you can help them to become self-reliant. Don't preach, but listen, and let love show itself in help.

8. Make friends, as equals, with at least one member of a minority race. Learn his frustrations, his attitudes, his needs and aims. Show him that Jesus loves him.

9. Learn from your pastor or from hospital chaplains of sick people who need a cheering visit. Make the visits brief and encouraging. Follow them up with notes, gifts, inquiries and encouragement.

10. Write at least one letter of appreciation each week to a pastor, writer, friend, relative or former teacher who has meant much to you.

11. Offer to baby-sit free for a mother who can't afford to pay a sitter.

12. Call the social agencies in your town and offer to do the volunteer chores nobody else wants, and ask friends to help.

13. Select at least one foreign missionary and send a love gift and a letter, and learn what his most urgent needs are. Then set out to fill these needs.

14. Participate in local government by backing candidates and groups that seem eager to "clean up" politics.

15. Make your voice heard whenever moral issues are before your community, such as pornography, drugs, vice, venereal disease, and lawlessness. Don't be a silent "victim" when your Christian stand could improve matters. Act positively and with knowledge, and make certain your attitude always reflects love.

16. Young people, make love a part of your voice and manners at home, even when you don't agree with a parental wish or idea. Treat teachers with respect. Christ commands respect toward all those in authority even when we don't agree.

17. Learn to know and listen to all people you formerly took for granted, such as your paper boy, the waitress, check-out girl, mechanic, or postman. Learn their ideas and dreams. Show them that Christ loves them through you.

18. When you must complain about poor merchandise or service, or an error in a bill, do it with a smile, and with concern for fixing the error, and not in fixing the blame. Suggest that you don't understand the error, rather than attack it in an accusing manner. (You may find that YOU were wrong!)

19. If you must disagree at a meeting, present your ideas humbly, minimizing the differences and maximizing the agreements. Before you speak, ask God for wisdom, tact, and a loving spirit, and then be sure to show love in your voice and face. Avoid the temptation to be sarcastic or to "trim someone down to size." As Paul put it, "in honor preferring one another."

SUGGESTION: Add to this list as God leads you. Read the list often, and place a pencil check when you have accomplished one of the suggestions. Then erase the checks and start over. This score-keeping is between you and God, and not an occasion for pride.

The Beatitudes of Love

Minister: Blessed are those who find love everywhere, for they may never be lonely.

Congregation: Blessed are those who always give love, for they shall always have more love to give.

Minister: Blessed are those who make it easier for others to love them, for they shall always have plenty of friends.

Congregation: Blessed are those who are always communicating love, for they are channels of blessing wherever they go.

Minister: Blessed are those who bestow healing love, for they may be known as the physicians of the soul.

Congregation: Blessed are those who leave love wherever they go, for the world will be a better place because they have lived.

Minister: Blessed are those who love to work, for theirs is the kingdom of service.

Congregation: Blessed are those who love to share, for theirs is the kingdom of joy everywhere.

Minister: Blessed are those who love to wait, for theirs is the kingdom of patience.

Congregation: Blessed are those who love to praise others, for theirs is the kingdom of appreciation.

Minister: Blessed are those who love to put others first, for theirs is the kingdom of humility.

Congregation: Blessed are those who love to be courteous, for theirs is the kingdom of good manners.

Minister: Blessed are those who love God first, and above all, for theirs is the kingdom of right relationship to God, people and things.

Congregation: Blessed are those who love Jesus Christ, for they share His tender compassion for the whole world.

Minister: Blessed are those who love and receive the Holy Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Holiness.

Congregation: Blessed are those who love what is right and good, for theirs is the kingdom of justice and mercy.

Minister: Blessed are those who practice love in relation to all people at all times, for theirs is the kingdom of intimate kindness.

Congregation: Blessed are those who plan to practice love always, for they shall live in the house of love and dwell in the city of God forever and ever.

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100,000 copies of this book have been used in churches and by individuals throughout the U.S. Ministers who use it as a text for "Missions of Love" testify as to its effectiveness in helping Christians practice the greatest of the Gifts of the Spirit.

WHAT MINISTERS HAVE SAID

"The idea of this book was born of the Holy Spirit and has the blessings of the Holy Trinity. It is so like the Master, it cannot fail, for love never faileth. A mission like this in enough churches could easily 'set the world on fire' with holy Christian love." Rev. Chas. Shaw, Trinity Methodist Church, Rome, Ga.

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"How we need this today in our world." Dr. Denson Franklin, First Methodist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

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"Your idea of a Hundred Days of Love is marvelous. I am all for it . . . a New Testament experiment." Dr. Kermit Long, Central Methodist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

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These devotions have been published as features in newspapers including THE ATLANTA JOURNAL, THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS, THE DALLAS NEWS, and others, and in denominational periodicals.